

Teaching: Lesson 11 (Apr 13/14, 2021)

The Gospel, No Condemnation



Read Romans 1:1–7, 16–17

1. Paul begins this letter by establishing his credentials. He begins by describing himself as a servant (or slave, depending on the translation) of Jesus Christ. Why does Paul describe himself in this way?

2. Imagine yourself as a recipient of this letter opening it for the first time. What is your initial reaction to Paul's introduction in the first seven verses?

3. Paul describes the gospel as “the power of God for salvation” in verse 16. When you think of the “gospel” do you normally associate it with “power?” Why or why not?

4. Do you ever have difficulty explaining what the gospel is to those who don't know Jesus? How might meditation and prayer on verses 1:16–17 help us all be better witnesses to a needy world?

5. Why does Paul destroy all claims to any ethnic advantage concerning salvation in verses 16-17?

Read Romans 8:1–11

6. Spend some time meditating on verse on verse 8:1. What is God teaching you?

7. How is 8:1 another definition of the gospel?

8. Paul describes himself as a **servant** in 1:1, but in 8:2 as one who is **free** in Christ Jesus. How should we understand these two words in a Christian context? How do they differ from a worldly understanding of these words?



9. What does Paul mean when he talks about Christians not walking according to the flesh but to the Spirit in verse 8:5?

10. Think back to the Old Testament promises regarding the work of the Spirit on people's hearts, minds, and desires. What does the Holy Spirit do regarding our mindsets?

11. How do you know if you are walking according to the flesh or to the Spirit?

12. Verses 8:7–8 make a strong claim regarding the reality for those *not* in Christ Jesus. What two things are unbelievers unable to do? How do you reconcile this with the fact that those of other faiths or even of no faith do good things for society?

13. In verses 8:9–11 Paul talks about the “Spirit of God” who dwells in you. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Take a moment to ponder the truth of these verses. Again, what is God teaching you?

14. The good news of Jesus Christ is the long-promised gift of the Lord God Almighty! Which verses that we've studied bring you the most comfort and encouragement.

15. Why is the gospel, the greatest possible news, often received with such hostility?