



LESSON ONE RIGHT WITH GOD

REV. DR. ROBERT E.
YOUNG

REFLECTION

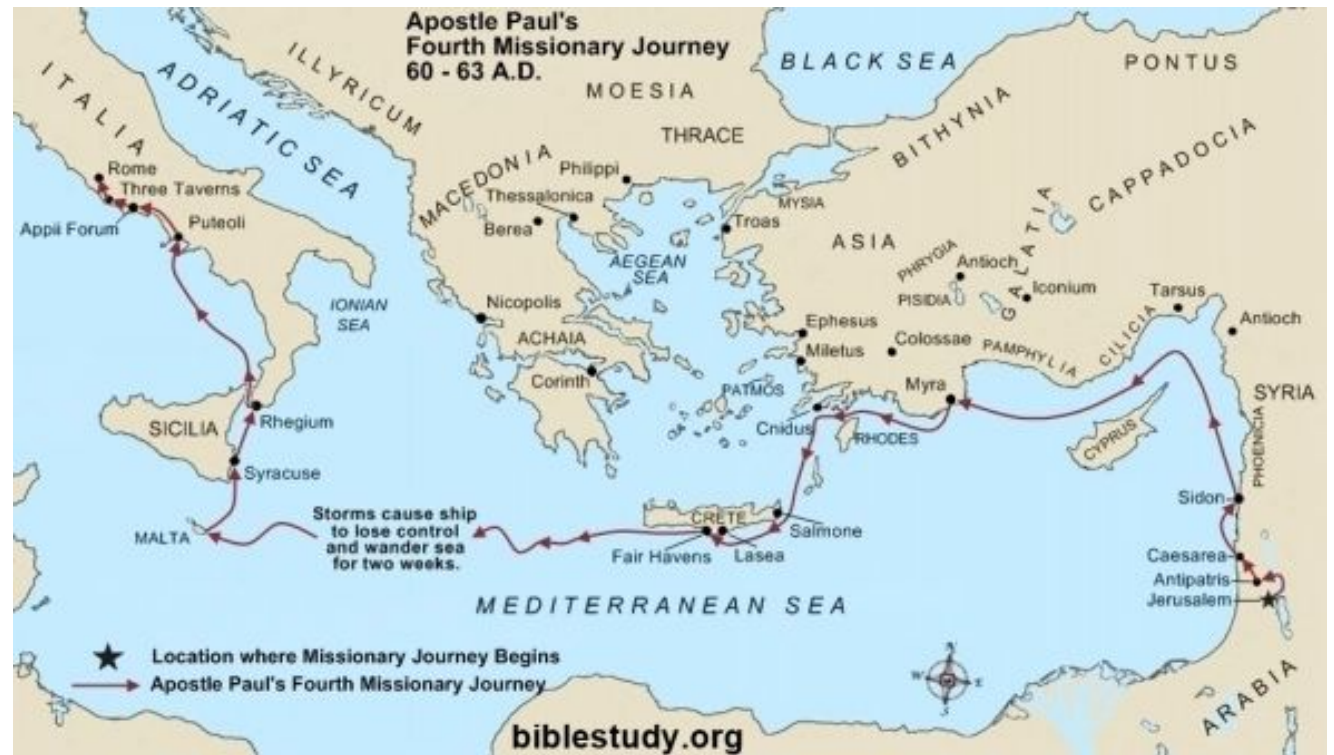
The Book of Romans offers an expanded and detailed look at God's special plan for the human race. It will show you the "before and after" conditions of your life in relation to Jesus Christ.

Consider your lifestyle before you became a Christian. What are some of the major changes that Christ has made in your life?



SITUATION

- The apostle Paul wrote this letter to a group of Christians in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire, to lay out his Christian doctrine after years of missionary work.
- He wanted to spend time with Roman believers as with the many fledgling churches around the Mediterranean Sea.
- This letter was Paul's way of saying, "Here are all the central lessons I would teach you if I were with you."





OBSERVATIO

N

Read Romans 1:16-32

EXPLORATION

1. What does Paul mean when he says he is "not ashamed of the gospel" Rom. 1:16
2. In what ways does God reveal himself to people?
3. How does Paul say that some people have provoked God to anger?
4. How and why is the truth of the gospel hidden from some individuals?
5. What happens when God lets people go their own way?
6. How does Paul say people can find freedom from the bondage of sin?

INSPIRATION

- George Monroe and William Robinson are thought to be two of the first African Americans to work as Pony Express riders.





Service

Disruption

REACTION

1. How does Paul describe your condition before you accepted Christ as your Savior?
2. How would you describe righteousness to a new believer?
3. Based on this passage, what is required to be right with God?
4. In what ways have you seen the righteousness of Christ transform a person's life?
5. In what areas of your life do your sinful desires tend to interfere with living a righteous life?
6. How does this passage encourage you to live by faith?

LIFE LESSONS

Whether we are new in our faith or have trusted in Christ for years, all of us struggle with the tendency to fall back on our righteousness, our "track record" or ability to do and be good, rather than placing our hope in Christ.



DEVOTION

Father, forgive us for being witnesses of your majesty and yet living as though you do not exist. Forgive us, Lord, when we put more hope in the things of this earth than in the incredible promises of your heaven. Have mercy on our hardened hearts. Transform us in your likeness.





ROMANS

LESSON TWO
KNOWING CHRIST

REV. DR. ROBERT E.
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REFLECTION



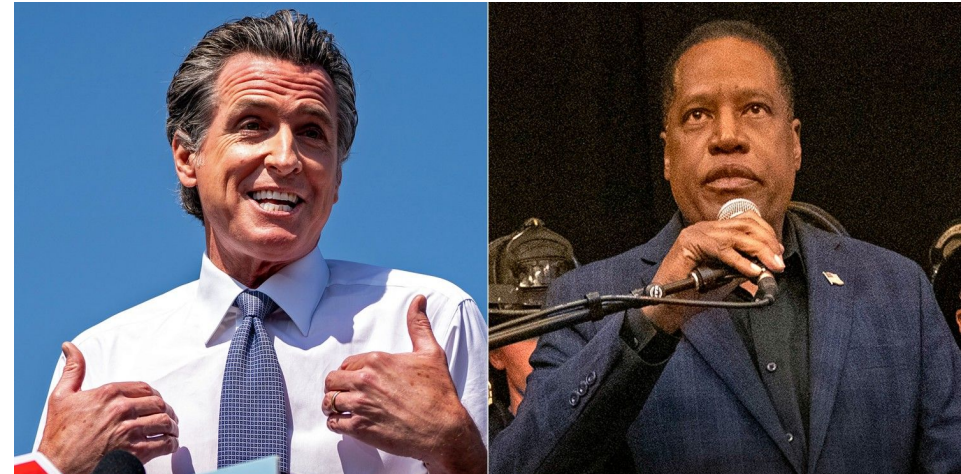
Disciplines

MEDITATION <i>Psalm 1:2</i> His delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.	SUBMISSION <i>Job 22:21</i> Submit to God, and you will have peace; then things will go well for you.	SOLITUDE <i>Mark 6:31</i> "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."
PRAYER <i>Colossians 4:2</i> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.	STUDY <i>Psalm 119:15</i> I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps.	SERVICE <i>Ephesians 6:7</i> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.
CONFESSION <i>James 5:16</i> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.	WORSHIP <i>Psalm 96:9</i> Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.	GUIDANCE <i>Proverbs 15:22</i> Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.
FASTING <i>Luke 5:35</i> But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."	SIMPLICITY <i>Ecclesiastes 7:29</i> This is all that I have learned: God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves	CELEBRATION <i>John 15:11</i> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

- In the last lesson, you saw how in the beginning people deliberately rebelled, and now every generation experiences the results of the rebellion.
- Repentance is the first step that begins the journey home, and the gospel offers the hope for that journey.
- What steps have you taken recently to deepen your relationship with Christ?

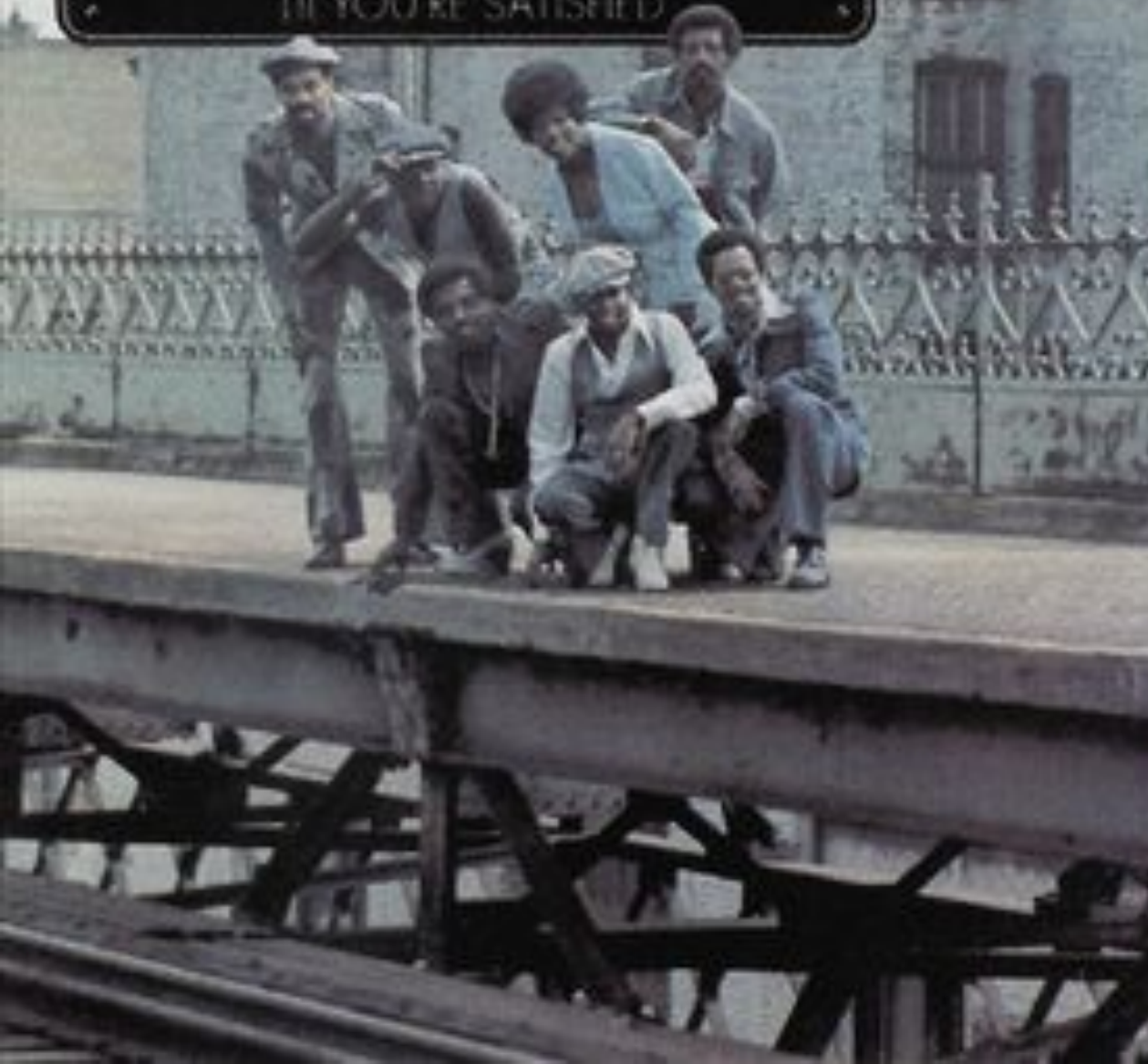
SITUATION

- Paul was aware that his audience had a divided worldview – Jewish and Gentile – and that he needed to get the attention of two kinds of thinking.
- In this next part of his letter, he addresses the self-confident Jewish mindset that assumed a special place in God’s plan, as well as the Gentile mind that was proudly self-reliant.
- Both ways of thinking needed to undergo a change of perspective by seeing the human condition from God’s holy perspective.



B.T. EXPRESS

DO IT
TIL YOU'RE SATISFIED



OBSERVATION –
Romans 2:1-16

EXPLORATION

1. What reason did Paul give for advising the believers to avoid judging others?
2. What does Paul say was God's purpose for extending kindness toward the believers?
3. What guidelines does Paul say that God will use to reward or punish people?
4. If hearing the law does not make people right with God, what does?
5. How can you tell right from wrong? What guides you in this?
6. What does it mean to have the requirements of God's law written on your heart?

INSPIRATION

Satan's best tools of destruction are not from outside the church, they are from within the church. A church will never die from the immorality in Hollywood or the corruption in Washington. But it will die from corrosion within from those who bear the name of Jesus but have never met him, and from those who have religion, but no relationship.

Judas bore the cloak of religion, but he never knew the heart of Christ.

LET'S MAKE IT OUR GOAL TO KNOW HIM...DEEPLY!



REACTION

1. What similarities do you see between Judas and the people Paul addressed in this letter?
2. How does Paul explain the difference between being religious and being right with God?
3. How would you define hypocrisy? Why do you think it is so harmful to the church?
4. What are some examples of spiritual corrosion that you see in the church today?
5. In what subtle ways does Satan try to corrode your relationship with Christ?
6. How can you guard against Satan's attacks?

LIFE LESSONS

**HAPPINESS IS FOUND
WHEN YOU STOP
COMPARING YOURSELF
TO OTHER PEOPLE.**

PICTUREQUOTES.COM

Euginia Herlihy

*“Comparison is the most
poisonous element in the
human heart because it
destroys ingenuity and it
robs peace and joy”*

INSPIRATIONANDEXPLORATION.COM

- One area of relentless temptation we can expect to encounter involves our tendency to compare ourselves with others. This type of judging has only one purpose: to make ourselves feel better, superior and spiritually safe.
- Paul shows that comparisons simply deny the truth that we all stand before a holy God as fallen creatures in desperate need of his mercy. When we forget to include ourselves in that picture, we can't see others clearly.

DEVOTION

Father, we have all taken wrong paths and made wrong choices. We know your law, yet we choose to ignore it. We strive to impress others with our knowledge of you when our hearts are far from you. Forgive us, Father. Guide us into a truer, deeper relationship with you.





ROMANS

LESSON THREE A PRICELESS GIFT

REV. DR. ROBERT E.
YOUNG



REFLECTION

- God's ways are not your ways, and you will never fully understand the mysteries of his justice, holiness, and power.
- What would you do with humanity if you were God?
- How would you respond to your sinful creatures?
- Think about how God has worked in your life recently.
- What about your salvation is still a mystery to you?



CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGY
AN INTRODUCTION · FOURTH EDITION
ALISTER E. HUNTER

SITUATION

- Paul says, God's laws are good, but they are also incapable of motivating us to live up to God's righteous expectations. Whether the law is present or not, we can't obey it perfectly, we are still sinners.
- But Paul is only laying the foundation for the good news that follows.
- Note that *Justification* refers to God's declaration that we are not guilty for our sins, *Redemption* means that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross, and *Atonement* refers to Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

I
AM
EVERYDAY
PEOPLE

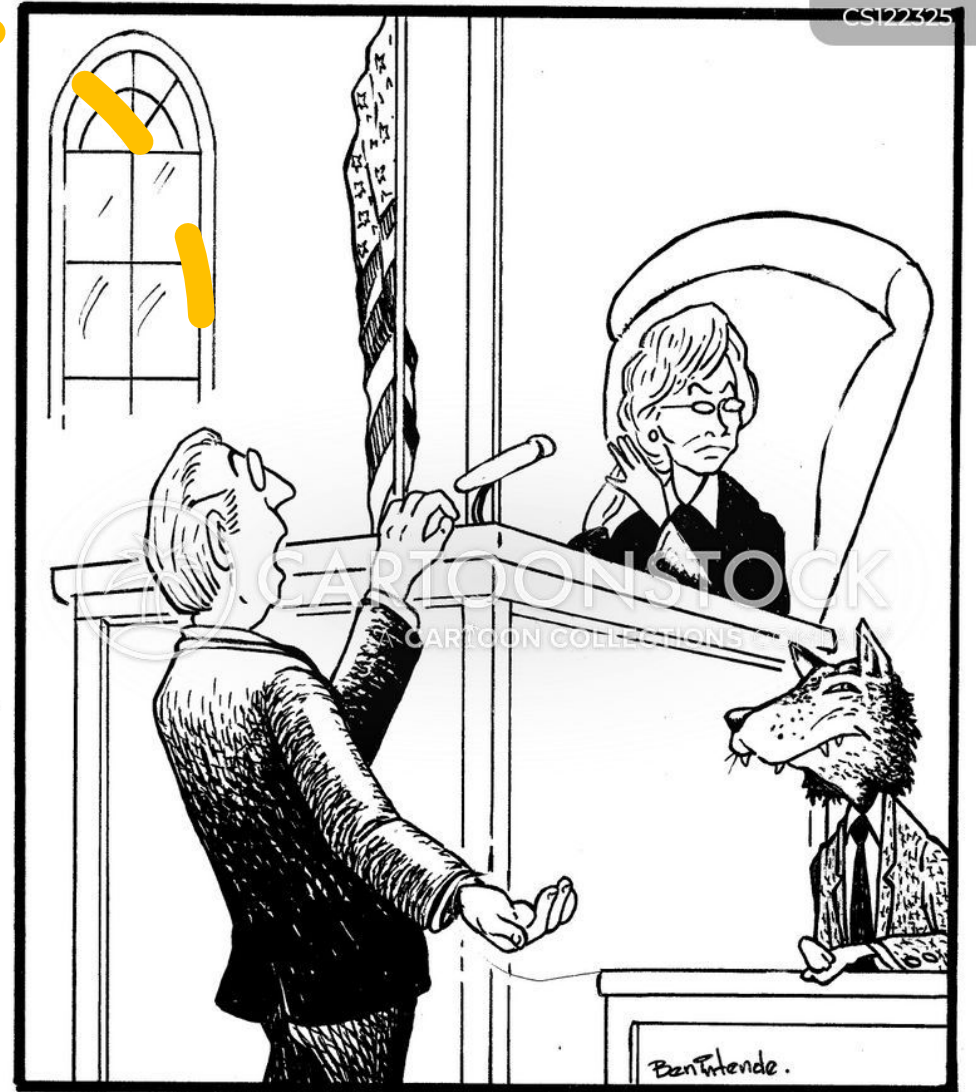


OBSERVATION

- READ ROMANS 3:21-31
 1. EVERYDAY PEOPLE MUST BELIEVE
 2. EVERYDAY PEOPLE MAKE BLUNDERS
 3. EVERYDAY PEOPLE ARE MET WITH A BONUS

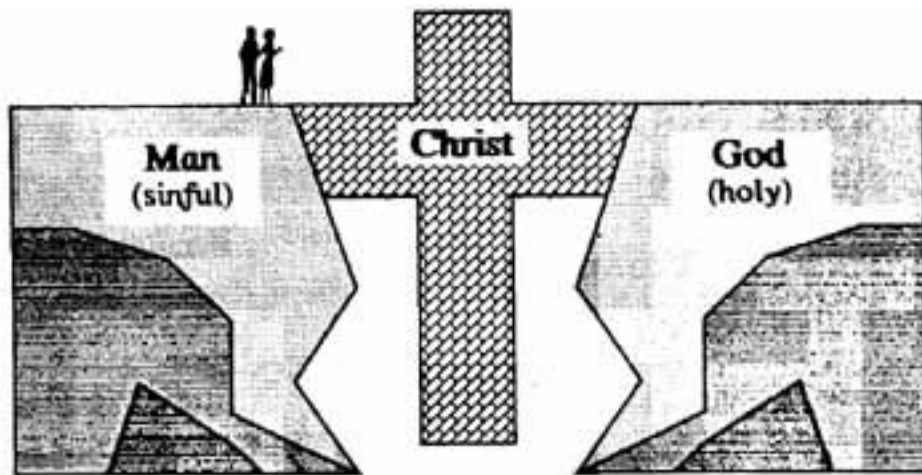
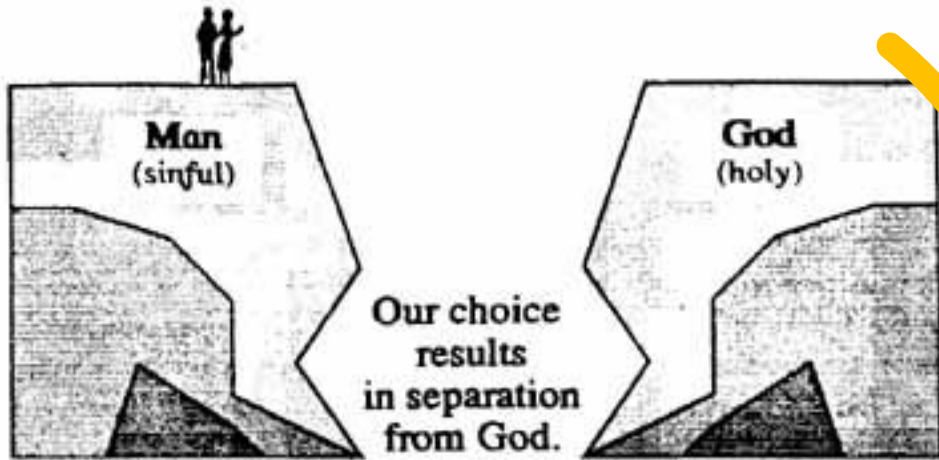
EXPLORATION

1. What does Paul say all people share when it comes to God's laws and his standards?
2. How are people made right with God? What is required of them?
3. How did God demonstrate his righteousness in not just "dismissing people's sins?"
4. How does God's plan demonstrate his fairness toward all of humanity?
5. What should prevent believers from bragging?



"WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY EXPECT FROM MY CLIENT, YOUR HONOR? HE'S A WOLF!"

INSPIRATION



Ponder the achievement of God. He doesn't condone our sin, nor does he compromise his standard. He doesn't ignore our rebellion, nor does he relax his demands. Rather than dismiss our sin, he assumes our sin and, incredibly, sentences himself. God's holiness is honored. Our sin is punished. And we are redeemed. God is still God. The wages of sin are still death. And we are made righteous.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ...God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:19,21

REACTION

1. When did you realize salvation is a free gift provided by Christ?
2. Who or what helped you reach that realization?
3. In what different ways do people try to earn salvation?
4. How was Jesus able to fulfill the commands of God's law and atone for our sins?
5. How would your life today be different without Jesus? What has his gift meant to you?
6. How will you respond to God for being both merciful and just?



LIFE LESSONS

What is priceless can't be bought or earned. Eternal life is just such a treasure. We receive it free or not at all. We could never afford it. We could never deserve it. **It's God's gift to us, or we don't have it.**

But it would be a huge mistake to conclude in this case that what is free is cheap. It cost God a great deal, including his Son's life, to provide this gift for us. There's no room for bragging in our response, but only gratitude.





DEVOTION

Father in heaven, we come to you, aware that we do not deserve to be in your presence. We thank you that you have provided a path for us through the blood of your precious Son. Your saving grace is a priceless gift. Keep us amazed and mesmerized by what you have done for us.

REFLECTION

- Except for Moses, no character in the Old Testament is mentioned more in the New Testament than Abraham. He was considered by the Jewish people to be the founding father of the nation of Israel, and they held him in high regard for putting his faith in God and trusting that the Lord would deliver on his promises.
- Think of someone who has been an example of great faith to you.
- That are the evidences of that person's faith?

SITUATION

- Paul makes the case for God having an ancient plan for salvation. Paul traces the Jewish lineage back to its beginning with Abraham – the original patriarch of the Jewish nation who was not himself a Jew.
- Paul argued that if God granted salvation (righteousness by faith) to Abraham long before he fathered the Jewish nation, would it not make sense to conclude that God has a plan for the rest of the Gentiles?
- In this way, Paul shows that God's plan has always been based on faith, not lineage.



OBSERVATION

- READ ROMANS 4:13-25

EXPLORATION

1. What made Abraham acceptable to God?
2. How did Abraham receive God's promise? How can others receive it?
3. What obstacles did Abraham overcome to believe God's promise?
4. What does it mean to have a strong faith? Does faith rely on its source or its object? Explain.
5. What words were written for both Abraham and us?
6. How has God credited you with righteousness? How do you respond to this act?

INSPIRATION

- If we lack faith, we must ask God for it. God urges us to come boldly request good gifts from Him (Luke 11:9-13)
- God bestows His Gracious Spirit on those who request His presence and are prepared to cooperate wholeheartedly with His commands (Acts 5:32)
- He will not withhold any good thing from those who seek His faith in sincerity. God is faithful
- FORGED IN CRISIS QUOTE

REACTION

1. How does Abraham's example inspire you to have deeper faith in God?
2. What are some ways that your life and faith could influence others?
3. When was a time when someone else's faith made a difference in your life? Explain.
4. What are some things that can keep your faith from growing?
5. What do you usually do when you experience doubts?
6. What can you learn from Abraham about dealing with hindrances to faith?

LIFE LESSONS

THE FAITH PEOPLE WITNESS IN OUR LIVES MAY NOT AUTOMATICALLY COMMUNICATE THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH. THEY WILL SEE THE EFFECTS OF OUR FAITH. IF THEY ASK, WE MUST BE READY TO TELL THEM OUR FAITH RESTS IN JESUS CHRIST. WE LIVE BY FAITH BECAUSE WE LIVE IN HIM

DEVOTION

Father, you accepted Abraham's faith, and you accept ours today. We do not deserve your forgiveness and mercy, yet you give it freely. Thank you for covering our guilt in the blood of your only Son. Continue to strengthen our faith in you, for your glory.

Fannie Lou Hamer Townsend; October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977) was an American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement. She was the co-founder and vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Hamer also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of all races who wish to seek election to government office.






ROMANS

LESSON FIVE VICTORY OVER SIN

REV. DR. ROBERT E.
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REFLECTION

- Habits! The best ones seem impossible to develop. The worst ones show up effortlessly in your life. Good habits disappear in a heartbeat. Bad ones linger on and on.
- Think of a time when you conquered a bad habit.
- How did you do it?
- Describe how this made you feel.

B	I	N	G	O
Don't Brush Your Teeth	Stay Up All Night	Watch TV All Day	 Vacation	Sleep All Day
Litter	Nail Biting	Video Games for Long Periods	Eat Junk Food	Gossip
 Meditation	Speaking with Your Mouth Full		Sit All Day	
Drink Soda	Stressing from CNN/Fox News/MSNBC	Eat White Sugar	Get at least 7-8 hours  of quality sleep every 24 hours	 Exercise
Bonus!	 Eat Healthy	Tik Tok All Day	Cracking Your Knuckles	Smoking

SITUATION

- Paul knows the people's tendency to abuse the gift of God's grace runs deep.
- Does the reality of God's grace make it possible for people to sin at will without concern about consequences?
- Unless we deliberately place ourselves in God's hands and become slaves to righteousness, the freedom God offers us will degenerate into slavery of a different kind.
- We are all slaves of the ones we choose to obey. So why would we choose to serve the world, the flesh, or the devil, when we have the opportunity to serve our Creator?



OBSERVATION

ROMANS 6:15-23

1. LIFE HAS NEW MEANING
2. LIFE HAS A NEW MASTER
3. LIFE HAS NEW MONEY



EXPLORATION

1. Why shouldn't Christians keep on sinning?
2. How does offering yourself to someone or something in obedience make you a slave of that person or thing? Give examples.
3. What are some of the consequences of being a slave to sin?
4. What are the benefits of being a slave to righteousness?
5. What change did Paul say should be evident in those who have accepted Christ?



INSPIRATION

Why would emancipated slaves who have been freed from sin and shame return to live under the same domination any longer?

Begin each day thinking victory, not defeat; to awake to grace, not shame; to encounter each temptation with thoughts like, "Jesus, You are my Lord and Savior. I am your child—liberated and depending on Your power.



REACTION

1. Why do you think people choose to be slaves to sin rather than righteousness?
2. Why do even believers in Christ continue to struggle with sin?
3. What are the long-term effects of choosing to continue in a pattern of sin?
4. What can a believer in Christ do to break free from sins?
5. What are some ways you can begin each day focusing on the victory Jesus has given you rather than the defeat the enemy wants you to have?
6. How do Paul's words in Romans 6:15-23 challenge your attitude toward sin in your life?

LIFE LESSONS

- Before we trust in Christ's power and presence in our lives, sin and sinful habits exercise power over us. But when we accept Christ, the rules change. Sin and sinful habits no longer have power, though they relentlessly seek to maintain influence over us and gain our permission to continue their work.
- Paul tells us that before we knew Christ, we were slaves to sin. But Christ has purchased us and given us our freedom. We can now by the power of Christ say no to sin and experience the power of overcoming sin and sinful habits.

Devotion

Father, we know that you have won the victory over sin and death, and we ask you to be the master of our lives. Protect us from the evil one and the temptations of this world. We invite the purifying power of your Holy Spirit to cleanse our lives. May we stay blameless until the day of your return.