

Romans - New Covenant of Grace - Lesson 27

1. Background to Paul's letter to the believers in Rome (book of Romans).

- Paul wrote Romans around **58 AD**. (Around 30 years after Jesus died and the Church was born.)
- Paul was prevented from going to visit believers in Rome because he needed to teach in other places first; thus hindering a trip to Rome. (Romans 1:13; 15:22)
- Paul wanted to teach the believers in Rome the most important message ever... the **Good News** about Christ.

Romans 1:16-17

- Because He wasn't able to visit them as soon as he wanted, he wrote a long letter instead.
- Paul wrote this exhaustive letter to explain the Gospel, the terms of the **New Covenant**, and the doctrines (teachings) of the "Church".
- The book of Romans essentially contains the most important things that God wants all people to know:
 - to recognize they are sinful before God
 - to choose to "join in" to the New Covenant with Him by trusting in Jesus alone for salvation,
 - to know and understand the details of the new, perfect, & eternal relationship with God
 - and to live in a close daily relationship with Him by more and more frequently following His values and standards... which the Holy Spirit reminds us of and gives us the ability to obey.

2. Two major areas of the New Covenant are explained in the book of Romans:

- The believer's "**standing**" or "position" before God. (Romans 3-8)
- The believer's daily "**walk**" with God or closeness in relationship with God. (Romans 12-16)
 - The "walking" will never be good if we don't fully understand and apply the "standing".

3. Paul first taught who we are if we're **without** Christ (the bad news).

Romans 3:10-12, 19-20

- No one is **righteous**.
- People are **guilty** before God and sinful.

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4. Paul then taught who we are if we're **with** Christ (the good news).

Romans 3:22-24

- Because Jesus was the sacrifice for our sin, and if we have faith in Him alone, the New Covenant terms say this about us:
 - We are **made right** with God. (Romans 3:22, 25, 26, 28, 30; 4:5, 11, 20-25)
 - We have **peace** with God. (**Romans 5:1**)
 - We are **friends** of God. (**Romans 5:10-11**)
 - We have a **new** life that is set free from the power of sin. (Romans 5:18; **6:5-7**, 10-11)
 - We have **eternal** life with God. (**Romans 5:21**; 6:23)
 - We are no longer **condemned** by God. (**Romans 8:1**)
 - We have God's Spirit living in us. (Romans 8:9, 11)
 - God **adopted** us as His very own children. (**Romans 8:14-16**)
 - We will receive new, perfected, and eternal **bodies**. (Romans 8:23)
 - We cannot be **separated** from God's love for us. (**Romans 8:38-39**)

5. Application

- Do you live as though you have been made right with God through Christ or are you still trying to earn it somehow?
- Did you know you entered an eternal peace treaty with God when you trusted Christ?
- God looks at you as His friend.
- Do you feel condemned by God for past or current sins? That feeling is not telling the truth. Jesus fully dealt with the shame, guilt, and condemnation for all of our sins.
- Before faith in Jesus, we were NOT God's children, but the moment we believed in Him, God adopted us as His own child. Do you view Him as a distant deity or a loving Father who willingly chose to adopt us even though He knows everything about us?
- Are you resting in God's love for you that will never end, no matter what?
- Thank God for this new covenant of grace which you entered into with Him when you trusted in Jesus as your Deliverer from sin and death.