

March 5, 2023

Masterclass: Week 1

A MASTER CLASS is an opportunity given to students of a particular discipline by an expert of that discipline—usually music, science, painting, drama, or on any other occasion where skills are wanting to be developed.

If you have access to a High End credit card, you will get an offer to participate in a Master Class in person.

Or you can go Online and sign up at 'masterclass.com' and search through hundreds of topics and learn virtually from the Masters on your topic of interest.

Over the next couple of weeks you'll hear from some Masters on their most passionate projects. Areas that will challenge us to grow and explore more ways to walk our Christian journey.

A pastor, much like a shepherd, is a multi-faceted calling. By being an Undershepherd of Christ, I want to dedicate my life to what really mattered to Jesus.

- Jesus said, I have come that you might have Life to the full.
- Luke 4:18-19 (NIV): "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- 1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV): Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

If there is a Master Class to help us understand what a Life in Christ is all about, what you'll find is Paul is the Master Teacher, and his Magnum Opus is the book of Romans!

The Roman church at this time was comprised mostly of house churches, rather than one central church.

Paul spends the opening chapters making the case that: There is no hope of a heavenly eternity for ANYONE without accepting Christ's sacrificial work on the Cross for the forgiveness of Sin, and then following Him in being the Leader of your life.

The Jews struggled because they were God's chosen people.

The Gentiles struggled because they sought wisdom and knowledge.

Romans 3:9-10 (NIV)

For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one."

In our Sinfulness, we are at Odds with the holiness of God.

But because we are LOVED by God, He did not want to stay separate from us, so HE provided a Savior to JUSTIFY us.

An acquittal is more than being found Not Guilty, it's JUST as if it never happened! JUSTIFIED!

But let's not get ahead of ourselves: A crime was committed, and we understand justice is that SOMEONE must pay for it!

Justification brings Righteousness (Rightness!)

Romans 3:21-22 (NIV)

But now apart from the law the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through FAITH in Jesus Christ to ALL who believe.

Romans 3:24 (NIV)

... and all are justified freely by his grace through the *redemption* that came by Christ Jesus.

1.) Redemption: language of the marketplace. Meaning: to rescue, deliver, ransom.

2.) Propitiation: wording from the Jewish sacrificial system.

Romans 3:25 (KJV)

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past.

There had to be a focal point of God's wrath because of his holiness.

3.) Justification: a legal term used in court. Means: to pronounce, accept, and treat as just, not liable, entitled to all privileges the same as to those who had kept the law.

Benefits of Justification

Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by FAITH into this grace in which we now stand.

Christ's sacrifice, trumps our sinfulness!

Romans 5:10 (NIV)

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

God's universal remedy is enacted by FAITH.

Romans 1:17 (KJV)

The JUST shall live by FAITH.

The Purpose of a Master Class is not just Knowledge, it's an inspiration to replicate the Master.

This series is more than giving you Biblical facts or teachings. They are truths that we must all put into practice!

Heaven is not guaranteed by knowing about Jesus, or being baptized, or becoming a church member. It's only guaranteed by you putting your FAITH in Christ who did for you what we are incapable of doing for ourselves!

No one is ever too bad, or too far gone!

We ALL have hope today in the finished work of the Cross!