

# Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

Topic: Application in Romans 3

## How To Help Someone to a Saving Faith

To be God's representative and share the Truth, it is essential to know the doctrine of our new identity in Christ. This good news is strategically placed in the book of Romans as it is the book that establishes a believer in the gospel of Christ. The goal: *"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established. (Romans 1:11)* The first thing God desires a person to learn is how to be just before Him (*Romans 1-5*). General chapter topics:

**Chapter 1:** God is Creator and man is a sinner, in need of a Savior.

**Chapter 2:** God's righteous judgment of man & his works are sure.

**Chapter 3:** No flesh is just by his own works of the law, but God offers His provision, which is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ's blood.

**Chapter 4:** God imputes His righteousness to those who believe.

**Chapter 5:** Once a person puts faith in God's provision, he is eternally secure. He has peace and a grace standing before God, with hope. Immediately, God places the Holy Spirit within to teach him.

**When you have short encounters with others:** As an ambassador you can hand out a tract that contains the gospel with verses to reinforce what is discussed. This pamphlet can also include contact information. In the interaction, it is helpful to open the conversation with a question: "Do you know how much God loves you? He proved it when He gave His Son." or "Are you certain that you're going to heaven; how do you know?" or "Do you know the good news of the gospel?" If they don't shut the door to the interaction and desire more, share more of the specifics: Man is a sinner, there's a judgment, Christ's death on the cross paid for all sin, we have God's righteousness, providing peace with Him, & eternal life.

**When you have time/opportunity to teach:** You can use the chapter topics/Scripture to slowly instruct a person to understand the essential components of the gospel. Each verse and chapter builds on the one before it, progressing someone in growth. As a teacher, ask the person questions to gain insight into what they do and don't understand. Then, teach to those issues. Encourage the individual to read each chapter several times on their own and then come back to you or a Bible teacher with questions. Suggest using a dictionary to define new or difficult words. Prayer and meditation are also useful.

**Note:** Even if all you do is hand out a tract, Christ can use it to make an eternal impact on others. This is a way to live in thanksgiving to God!

## The Option to Have a Totally New Outlook

Once someone believes Christ paid for all his sin, he is eternally saved from God's wrath. The prior separation between him and God is forever gone: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17)*

Romans 1-5 can teach a new saint what he now has, such as, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Rom. 5:1-2)*

As he reads foundational doctrine (Rom. 1-5), he will be established in the basics of the gospel. It will give him confidence in his new, eternal relationship and standing with God.

As he progresses (Rom. 6-8), he will gain a new view of himself: *"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." (Rom. 6:8)* He can begin to have an eternal outlook, that is, Christ's mind: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5)*

God desires that we all read Scripture daily to transform our minds and replace worldly thinking: *"...be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom. 12:2)* When we choose the option to develop His mind, it can give us a whole new perspective on life. God asks us to make a choice to read, learn, and live it by faith: *"...even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. (Rom. 6:19)* Our thinking can be changed forever.



Search it out!

## Using Romans 3 to Examine Key Words

Examine verses!



This month introduces another study skill: Key words. This will enable us to gain personal insight into words within passages to assist in reading and enabling practical application of Scripture. The tool is found on Page 19, # 14, taken from "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools," which is now available on Amazon.

**Key words and phrases:** These are significant words, often repeatedly used and are a flag to the student. It indicates an essential topic or concept. Defining key words and thinking about their context can be helpful to gain further insight into a passage.

- 1. Romans 3:21-26 is full of important words to understand.** Find five essential words that seem key to what Paul is teaching. Define using context/dictionary.
- 2. Romans 1:17 relays that the focus of the gospel of Christ is centered around 'righteousness.'** As Paul describes the gospel, he uses this word as a key word.

Notice how often it's used in Chapter 3, 4, & 5. How is 'righteousness' key to our salvation from the penalty of sin? Is it also vital to our walk? Was it a key term in the Old Testament too? (Hint: Used 198 times in O.T.)

### 3. Examine a few definitions for meditation:

- Righteousness:** God's perfect standard; quality of being right or just according to God's criteria/measure.
- Justified:** Declared or made righteous in God's sight.
- Grace:** Unmerited favor; free gift. Favor freely given.
- Faith:** Take God at His Word; believe: fully persuaded.
- Propitiation:** A fully satisfying sacrifice; sufficient.

**4. Go further in your reading:** Study each of the words to see how they are used in Paul's epistles and the Old Testament. Think on how reading passages in context that use the same term can help a saint to gain a fuller understanding of a passage. Sometimes, looking up the particular Greek word can clarify difficult passages.

**5. Reflect:** How has this examination of words helped you in your understanding of Romans 3:21-26?

## Humbled to Just Believe

Man must be righteous in order to get into Heaven on his own. Can anyone do this? The answer is absolutely NO! Only the Lord walked this earth as a righteous man. *"...but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* (Hebrews 4:15) God alone is all-wise and all-powerful. His way is the ONLY way to be saved from the penalty of sin, trusting in Jesus Christ's blood. Instead of elevating ourselves, believing we are as righteous as God, we can be humbled to believe and trust Him.

Let us make sure we understand the word humble. It means lowly; to have a modest, unexalted view of one's ideas. It is glorifying God, NOT self: *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was*

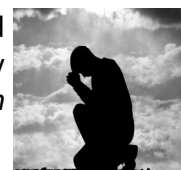
*darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."* (Rom. 1:21-22) Romans 2:29 goes on to teach us what God desires; it is a circumcised heart...a heart of faith.



Thus, saints are to exalt God and take Him at His Word, trusting that the sacrifice of His Son, the Lord Jesus, is a fully satisfying sacrifice and acceptable unto God. *"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, through the forbearance of God."* (Romans 3:25)

In this way, we set aside our ideas, ways, and efforts to just believe God. He will not only forgive all our sins, but also impute His own righteousness to us. To explain it another way, the sin debit on record is wiped clean, but much more, His righteousness is credited to our account. *"But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead: Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."* (Rom. 4:24-25)

**Think on this:** What a great privilege to humbly realize that the loving God of all Creation fully provided for our grievous sin problem. He planned for our justification in this time of Grace, through the mystery of the cross, before the foundation of the world: *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory. (1 Cor. 2:7) Glory to God!*





When a saint trusts Christ, he does not sense a physical change because it was a spiritual event in the inward man. Yet, many things changed. A few examples:

- We're forgiven and our sin debt was paid by the Lord Jesus Christ: past, present, and future sins (Romans 3).
- We have God's own righteousness imputed unto us (Rom. 4).
- There is a status change between us and God, since sin is no longer a barrier (Romans 5). He desires to give us 'much more.'
- Our Old Man (Adam's nature), was inherited and is crucified. Our spirit is made alive, enabling us to live differently. (Romans 6)
- We can now live a life that pleases God as we yield (Rom. 6)

Many saints who trust in Christ's blood never function any differently, looking just like unbelievers. Other believers look like the model Christian at Church. Why?

Simply put, some saints never learn, so they don't change or mature as a believer. They may not have a good Bible teaching Church or Bible study in their area. Sometimes saints don't know about study options, like sermons/Bible studies on YouTube. Unfortunately, many are not motivated and don't see it is necessary to read Scripture. In any case, growth will not happen, if they do not obey from the heart the doctrine laid out in Paul's epistles: *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."* (Romans 6:17)

Still other saints, when they first believed, 'seem' to immediately look like the perfect Christian. Unknowingly, they use their flesh to 'be a good Christian.' This is the 'works of religion,' trying to gain God's favor or appear good. This is self-righteousness and is unacceptable to God (Rom. 9:32). Yet, their good works can look so good.

Some saints immediately choose to walk by faith in the Word, for others it takes a while to sink in. Growth and transformation can be slow as they learn God's way of grace. *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."* (Romans 6:14)

**Think On This:** God desires that we all walk by faith to be educated by His Word and progress from being a babe in Christ. We can become spiritual adults by daily reading and thinking about the Scriptures: *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."* (Eph. 4:15) We will not feel or look any different until we yield to allow God to work within us. Growth happens, but takes reading/meditation/time.



When individuals first trust Christ there can be an new sense of thankfulness, realizing that they are finally free from sin. Truly, this is such a joy and comfort!

However, enthusiasm without knowledge can prompt the flesh to work by its own effort to please God. *"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* (Rom. 8:8) This is a man-made, religious attempt to do things to please or satisfy God, or even gain acceptance, worth, or merit. Historically, this is the religious response that the Nation Israel exhibited: *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."* (Rom. 10:3)

Faith in the gospel of Christ is needed to be justified, but also enables us to walk godly. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* (Eph. 2:8-9) We will be able to walk worthy so Christ can live within us as we humbly yield unto the Word.

God created us for the purpose of manifesting Christ's life. *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (Eph. 2:10) Trying by our efforts is not acceptable to God.

To summarize, it is Christ living within us that produces acceptable service and work unto God. As we read the Word regularly to develop a transformed mind, we will begin to bring forth holy, righteous fruit: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Gal. 2:20) **Glorious!**

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Stamp

To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**



## Can You Be Saved More Than Once?

Some boast of being saved or walking the aisle to make a pronouncement of faith several times within their life. However, trusting in the blood of Christ alone for the payment of your sin is a one-time decision. *“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, through the forbearance of God.” (Rom . 3:25)* This single decision is ‘through faith in His blood.’

Once this choice is made, it does not have to be reinforced, re-viewed, proved, or redone in any way. God knows and He can be depended upon. Be confident that you have eternal life and He will keep you saved: *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved** from wrath through him.” (Romans 5:9)*

The end of Romans 8, Verses 31-39, reviews the confidence a believer needs to progress forward in their faith walk. Paul deals with many things to remind the reader of what God has done to fully provide for us as we remain on earth as His ambassadors. This confidence is vital as many obstacles and challenges await in this world. A few issues that can give us confidence, once we believe:

- God is really for us! (Vs. 31)
- God even offered His own Son for us, thus we can count upon Him for our salvation, but also to give us freely, all things as believers! (Vs. 32)
- If God is the one who justified us, is there anyone who can lay any thing to our charge? (Vs. 33)
- Christ makes intercession for us, so can anyone condemn us? (Vs. 34)
- As we are now more than conquerors through Him that loved us, can anyone separate us from the love of Christ? (Vs. 35-37)
- Can we be fully persuaded in these matters? Nothing can ever separate us from God’s love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord! (Vs 38-39)

To gain this confidence, read and reread Romans 1-8, thinking on it through the day. Saints will become sure by sound doctrine, that there is no need to be saved again from the wrath. **It is finished!**

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