

# Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

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

Topic This Month: Romans 1

## Paul...Is He Talking to Me?

Yes he is! Did you know that God set aside the Nation Israel because He had some things He wanted to do with YOU? God appointed Paul to be your Gentile Apostle, that is, to all nations of the world: *"For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office."* (Rom. 11:13) So then, what Paul teaches is especially important for you, as it is specific instructions 'to you,' in order to be justified, but also live by faith.

Paul's teachings and his ministry reveal many things you need to know. Here are just three significant ways they are important:

- 1. A new gospel to be justified:** The risen Christ taught Paul the gospel of Christ, it was a mystery never before known. All who believe that His blood was shed to pay for all their sin are justified unto eternal life. It is by faith alone, nothing you do. It's all grace & a free gift. (Rom. 1-5).
- 2. New teaching to grow:** Romans thru Philemon contains the teaching for us in the Body of Christ to mature. As it is read by faith, it progressively forms Christ in the inner man to enable us to live unto God.
- 3. It Dispels Confusion:** It is important to know this doctrine to understand what God is doing today and effectively apply it in your life. Otherwise, you will mix up what is written 'to' Israel, with teaching that is directed 'to' you, as a member of the Body of Christ. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (II Timothy 2:15).

The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to make time to read and understand the mystery of His grace. This doctrine is found in Paul's epistles; read and meditate upon them: *"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ.)" (Ephesians 3:1-4)*

**To Do: Study these things for yourself:**

- 1) Read Romans 1:1:** *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."* Examine words in this verse to learn about Paul in Acts and his epistles. Use a dictionary and concordance to look up: 'Paul,' 'called,' 'apostle,' 'separated,' and the word 'gospel' or 'gospels.'
- 2) Read Romans 9-11:** Notice how God set aside Israel to go to the Gentiles.
- 3) Knowing Paul's distinct doctrine will change how you think/study:** Paul's teaching is NOT a continuation of the teachings in Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. His gospel was kept a mystery, now made known to us: *"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest..." (Romans 16:25-26)*



Romans 1:8-12 is the first prayer in Romans and this sets the framework to help the Body of Christ know how to pray. Paul is to be our example (I Tim. 1:16), so notice what he included:

- Thanksgiving for saints. (Vs. 8)
- Praying without ceasing. (Vs 9)
- Mentioning others. (Vs. 9)
- Making request for self and other believers. (Vs. 9-11)
- Comfort by mutual faith. (Vs.12)

Additionally, note 'how' Paul prays. He is NOT asking God to change the circumstances in a miraculous way, nor spontaneously impart wisdom to the Romans. Rather, Paul reveals his mind and heart's desire: these saints needed to be established in the gospel. However, Paul was 'let hitherto,' that is, prevented from physically traveling to Rome to teach them.

(Note: Paul's longing for the Romans becomes the goal of the book: *"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established."* Verse 11)

Prayer worked together with the Word in Paul to find another way to help this Church. God used Christ in him to write Romans, enabling them to be founded in sound doctrine. Paul became the very vessel God used to fulfill his own prayer.

**Reflect:** What is the significance of this? Paul allowed the doctrine to work in him to be God's tool to fulfill the needs of the Romans. You too can be God's vessel to help others, no matter what obstacles arise.



Search it out!

**Romans 1:21-23: The Process of Sin**

Examine verses!



In this section, another study tool will be introduced to practically see how there are 'processes' used in Scripture. The tool is taken from, "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools," a resource book now available on Amazon.

**Process:** Contained within Scripture is a list or series of 'how to' action steps, which help students understand and apply what is being taught. Let us examine it in Romans 1:21-23:

**A. Six steps:** Read the verses below and number the steps man takes when he sins against God: *"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, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."*

**B. This is a process of sin, and is the foundation of any sin committed against God:** Think how sin has worked in your life. Apply this process as you think about the start of sin, all the way to the end of the sin.

1. **Knowing God, not glorifying Him as God.**
2. **Not thankful.** (Is not grateful, may feel entitled.)
3. **Vain in imaginations.** (Focus on own ideas)
4. **The foolish heart is darkened.** (Becomes blind.)
5. **Professes self to be wise, becoming a fool.**
6. **Changes the knowledge of God, to exalt other images/things.** (First & foremost, man becomes his own god, exalting his wisdom/ideas in his mind.)

**C. To Do: Practice seeing this study tool in the Word.**

1. **James 1:14-15:** This process works in unison with Romans 1:21-23. It delineates how man is tempted by his own lust in his mind. This brings man down the road from the thought of sin, which can transition to an action or behavior of sin. Target the steps.
2. **Proverbs 2:1-5:** Search this passage to see the stages outlined on how to find the knowledge of God.



## Do You Trust the Gospel of Christ?

As you drive through town, notice the many Church buildings. Each group has a particular view of what needs to be done, said, or believed to have eternal life or be acceptable to God. The many counterfeit gospels one can hear, even on TV or in Church, can be confusing. You'll also find there is more than one gospel (good news) given by God in the Scripture, as He changed how He dealt with man over time.

For example, Adam and Eve were told not to eat of the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:16-17). Noah was to build an ark, warning the world as 'a preacher of righteousness' (II Peter 2:5). Israel was given circumcision & to follow the Law (Gen. 17:10, Ex. 20:1-17). In each case, man was to walk by faith in what God told him. One can conclude that it is important to know God's specific instructions 'to you' (II Tim. 2:15).

Romans 1:17 reviews how faith works: *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* This is your faith, placed in His faithfulness; *"...faith to faith."* Then, you can progress onward to live your convictions in what God instructs through His Word, growing spiritually to have a holy walk. This is a sanctified walk, and refers to 'living by faith.'

Now, in this time of Gentile grace, there is a new gospel found in Romans-Philemon, called the gospel of Christ. Romans 2-3 teaches about judgment and God's righteousness. We are NOT to approach Him by our own works or efforts, but by 'faith alone.' So, how can you be justified unto eternal life? *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (fully satisfying sacrifice) **through faith in his blood...**" (Rom. 3:24-25)* Believe in the faithfulness of Christ to go to the cross and shed His blood to pay for all your sin. Think on this!

Now, a question for you: Do you believe? Christ paid for all your sin on the cross of Calvary and His resurrection proved that sin could not hold Him... He arose! Sin was fully paid: *"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."* (John 19:30) Trusting Christ and His blood is the most significant decision a person can make in this life. If you are unsure, find a saint who knows the gospel for today, to explain this to you, or call: **(804) 519-1210**.





## Let Us Reflect... Could We Actually Be Ashamed?

How many saints feel comfortable sharing the gospel with others? It seems most are apprehensive. Why is that? The truth is, it's hard to know what to say and it makes the flesh very uncomfortable. The flesh will avoid this feeling.

Most likely it is fear, the fear of rejection or making a mistake. Yet, God asks us to respond to Him in thankfulness and love, knowing Christ's great sacrifice: *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (Rom. 5:8) We can share the Truth with others, as it is a great privilege to labor with God.

Paul teaches us why he was 'ready to preach the gospel.' He had four things in mind (Rom. 1:15-18), each starting with the word 'for,' indicating why he's ready: **1) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: 2) for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 3) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 4) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."**

Let us take a moment to consider each of these issues:

**1) Not Ashamed:** Paul didn't allow his feelings of fear, embarrassment, nor reluctance to rule his decisions. Instead, he chose to love God and others to hold forth Truth. He focused above, deciding to walk by faith and yield unto God.

**2) It's God's Power:** The gospel of Christ is how God manifests His power today (I Cor. 1:18), offering eternal life and the Spirit. As Paul matured, he learned to love others more than himself to hold forth this Word of life (Philippians 2:16).

**3) Contains God's Righteousness:** In godly love, Paul greatly desired that others know the gospel. By faith alone, God imputes His righteousness (Rom. 4:8). Once they have the Spirit, they are enabled to understand and live unto God.

**4) A Coming Judgment:** God's wrath is a reality to the wicked and rebellious. Paul developed godly love, (selfless love), setting aside his flesh to speak the Truth, even to his enemies, so they could be delivered from the wrath to come.

**Think on This:** Paul grew to learn God's selfless love for saints and the lost. This enabled him to prefer others, even when physical and emotional persecution were a real threat. Romans 1-8 can teach us these same convictions, with confidence: *"...If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (Rom 8:31) God can develop this faith in us, to push through any fear; yes, even to share the gospel of Christ!



## A Journey of Faith or Your Own God

Choices, choices...it is all about free will. Under grace, each believer has the liberty to live as he desires. God desires you to labor with Him as His ambassador. The 'rule of thumb' a saint is to live by is the godly wisdom he has acquired. Specifically, it is the sound doctrine he has learned in Romans-Philemon: *"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by **the same rule**, let us mind the same thing."* (Phil. 3:16)

Saints have the privilege to grow and also live what they learn, deepening their understanding. A journey of faith allows God to be in control: *"For it is God which worketh in you both **to will and to do** of his good pleasure."* (Phil. 2:13) As you yield your members to apply the Truth, it works out of your earthen vessel to shine Christ's power. (II Cor. 4:6-7)

The unsaved, rebellious man will follow the sin process as listed in *Romans 1:21-23*: Though he knows God is the Creator, this man will NOT glorify Him, nor be thankful. He is vain, puffed up, and foolish. He will develop a blind, darkened heart. And finally, he will exalt himself as the god of his life, becoming a fool, even changing the glory and knowledge of God into images and things in his mind. His flesh is in control.

Though Romans 1:21-23 refers to unbelievers, it is also the way of saints who live unto themselves or lack understanding/conviction of foundational teaching. There's eternal fruit to decisions (*ICor.3:10-15*). *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."* (Rom. 6:22)

**Reflect:** You have a faith journey. Each day is a new day of grace to search/think about Truth & apply what God has taught you.

**Christian Life Coach Support Services**  
 Writers/editors: Brian and Deborah Johnson  
 (804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com  
 Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Stamp

To:

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

**Coaching Insights** **Developing God-Centered Habits**



**1. How can I stay in the Word daily, when I am so busy?**

Oftentimes, we try to squeeze God into our busy life. Think differently. Start with God as your main priority, and then fill life in around Him. Target a consistent time each the day to do your reading and prayer. Keep it as your priority over all else. Plan ahead of time for possible distractions i.e. Inform family to hold their interruptions, silence your phone, read in a quiet location, etc. Start slow, beginning with 10-15 minutes to simply read, pray, and think on the Word. Increase the time as you desire.

Other ideas: Plan two time periods to read each day, then use the one that fits best that day. When driving, listen to the Bible on a phone App or CD. Get up earlier or stay up later, when it’s quieter, to do reading. Study with a friend at work, over lunch or call a family member to discuss/read the Word.

**2. I need ideas to have a ministry, as my life is already full.**

Your ministry is all around you, so don’t feel as if you have to block out major periods of time to become God’s ambassador. When you go to a store, pass out a tract that gives a clear gospel. If you don’t have one, write one; kids will enjoy it too. Start by giving out one brochure on each outing. It is also a wonderful way to strike up conversation. When you’re at the mall, doctor office, or grocery store use it as an opportunity to share the gospel or invite someone to Church or Bible study. Make a Church or Bible Study invitation: List the address, phone, and meeting times. Include the gospel, with Bible verses.

**The Orlando, Florida Women’s Retreat: April 12-13**

Friendship Bible Church has been most gracious to host this interactive retreat for five years consecutively. This year was the most well attended. There were three speakers and more than five churches represented. Several individuals traveled from out-of-state; the majority were local Floridians.

The last four years we reviewed Romans 6-16, but this year we backed up to discuss applying these grace principles in our relationships. The focus was being grace women, not just intellectual rightly dividers, knowing bits of data as head knowledge. The goal was living as who Christ made us in life circumstances. What a glorious time of questions, discussion, and fellowship.

A sampling of comments received were: “Best year ever!” “So practical and easy. I also could relate on so many things.” “I loved all the activities.”

**Christian Life Coach Support Services**

Writers/Editors: Brian/Deborah Johnson  
 Certified Christian Life Coaches  
 (804) 519-1210  
 lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com  
**Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com**

**About Our Grace Ministry:** Contact us if you’re interested in the opportunities below or have questions, or need help.

**Christian Life Coaching** Applying Pauline Truth in the details of life

**What is Coaching?** It is a helping service, which includes Bible instruction, mentoring, support, and applying Scripture to life situations for personal growth. The Scripture is used as our primary resource. Options: In-person/phone/skype, Coaching and teaching: individuals, couples, and groups (support groups/retreats/presentations).

**Periodical**

*Just A Minute:* Monthly Grace newsletter providing Bible study, edification, and life application with sound doctrine.

**Books**

- *What to Appreciate As We Approach God’s Word*
- *How the Bible is Practical and Able to Mature Believers*
- *Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer*
- *Romans Study Guide*
- *Discovering God’s Glorious Treasure (How to Rightly Divide)*
- *Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools*

**Join Us For Bible Study**  
 North Chesterfield, Virginia

**Family Study: Sunday, 6:30-9pm**  
**Ladies Study: Wednesdays, 10:30-12**  
 Call For Locations: (804) 519-1210