

The Letter of St. Paul to the ROMANS

VI

OUTLINE

Theme: Righteousness from God is revealed in the gospel!

- I. Introduction (1:1-17)
 - a. Author, recipients, greeting (1:1-7)
 - b. Thanksgiving and petitions (1:8-15)
 - c. Theme of the letter: Righteousness from God is revealed in the gospel (1:16,17)
- II. All lack righteousness (1:18-3:20)
 - a. Wicked people lack righteousness (1:18-32)
 - b. Religious people lack righteousness (2:1-3:20)
 - c. *You* lack righteousness! You cannot condemn others without condemning yourself (2:1-16)
 - d. You who have the law cannot obey the law (2:17-3:1)
 - e. No one is righteous! The law only makes us aware of sin. (3:1-20)
- III. Righteousness comes from God (3:21-4:25)
 - a. Not through works, but through faith in Jesus (3:21-31)
 - b. A case study (it's always been this way!): Abraham (4:1-25)
- IV. The effects of God's righteousness (5:1-8:39)
 - a. Peace and Confidence (5)
 - i. In the present (5:1-5)
 - ii. For the future (5:6-11)
 - iii. Because of the past (5:12-21)
 - b. Freedom from sin (6)
 - i. The reality of baptism. (6:1-8)
 - ii. The power of baptism. (6:11-14)
 - iii. Freedom and slavery (6:15-23)
 - c. Freedom from the law (7)**
 - i. Dying to the law (7:1-6)**
 - ii. Law and sin in the unbeliever (7:7-13)
 - iii. Law and sin in the believer (7:14-25)
 - d. Freedom from death (8)
 - i. Because we already died (8:1-17)
 - ii. Even though it still looks like we're dying (8:18-39)
- V. God's righteousness in dealing with Israel (9:1-11:36)
- VI. God's righteousness put into practice and Conclusion (12:1-16:17)

INTRODUCTION

Imagine yourself in a position of authority (e.g. parent, teacher, employer, elected official). You want those under your authority to behave in a certain way. How do you go about that? Take 2 minutes to complete the scenario.

My position of authority: _____

People I have authority over: _____

Behavior I want: _____

Plan of action for getting that behavior: _____

DYING TO THE LAW

Read Romans 7:1-6.

In chapter six Paul talked about what it means to be dead to something. At the beginning of chapter seven he illustrates that principle with an example from everyday life. The purpose of these verses is not to provide detailed instruction on marriage and adultery, but to illustrate something that Paul's listeners already knew and understood: the law of obligation in marriage. A person cannot pursue another obligation until he is released from the first obligation. Let's explore this concept in more detail.

What is God's will for marriage?

What releases a person from that law of marriage?

In general, laws have two parts: The expectation (Do this. Don't do that.) and the reward/consequence for obedience/disobedience (If you obey, you will get this. If you disobey, you will get that).

When it comes to God, what are his expectations of us?

What is the reward for obedience?

What is the consequence for disobedience?

But Paul says that we died to the law. What does that mean?

Explain how the law arouses sinful passions (v. 5).

What is the strange outcome of God telling people that there are no longer any rewards for obeying the law or any consequences for disobeying it?

Explain the statement: "When the law reigns, we live from the outside in. When grace reigns, we live from the inside out."

How does this relate to the larger discussion of slavery to sin or righteousness from chapter 6? (v. 4)

What is the difference between serving "*in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code*"? (v. 6)

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Romans 6:1,2

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

For next time read Romans chapters 7 and 8.

Where do you have opportunities to let your light shine, as you live in righteousness?