




## From Condemnation to Righteousness

What do these four people have in common?

- St. Augustine 
- Martin Luther 
- John Wesley 

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What do these four people have in common?

- St. Augustine (386, Romans 13:13b-14)
  - “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh”
- Martin Luther (1513, Romans 1:17)
  - “But the righteous man shall live by faith”
    - “It is the chief part of the New Testament and the perfect gospel . . . the absolute epitome of the gospel.”
- John Wesley (1738, Luther’s commentary on Romans)
  - Saved after hearing of Luther’s transformation

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*John Calvin* said of Romans, “When any one understands this Epistle, he has a passage opened to him to the understanding of the whole Scripture.”

*Frederick Godet*, (19<sup>th</sup> Century Swiss theologian) called the Book of Romans “The cathedral of the Christian faith.”

*The Apostle Peter*: **2 Peter 3:15-16**

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## From Condemnation to Righteousness

The Book of Romans “deals with how God, through Jesus Christ, has enabled human beings to move from a place of condemnation and sin to a place of reconciliation and righteousness” (*Ray C. Stedman*)

Paul’s entire argument of Romans is that Jesus is the only answer for the wretched human condition.

- Romans 7:24, “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”
- Colossians 1:27, “...Christ in you, the hope of Glory”

Are you in need of a personal reformation?

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## From Condemnation to Righteousness

The Structure of Romans:

**Part 1: Reconciliation and Righteousness – EXPLAINED**

- Romans 1:1-17 Paul’s introductory remarks to the Christians in Rome; a brief summary of the book (16-17)
- Romans 1:18-32 God’s diagnosis of the human condition; the wrath of God
- Romans 2 The guilt problem: why rites, rituals, and religion fail
- Romans 3 The world is dead in sin - but now a righteousness from God is revealed
- Romans 4 Abraham illustrates God’s grace; he was justified by faith, not works

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## From Condemnation to Righteousness

The Structure of Romans:

**Part 1: Reconciliation and Righteousness – EXPLAINED**

- Romans 5 Rejoicing in our hope, in our suffering, in God our Friend
- Romans 6 How to live by grace instead of law; slaves to righteousness, not sin
- Romans 7 Our struggle against “the flesh” (our sinful nature)
- Romans 8:1-17 There is now no condemnation for believers; other themes he will return to repeatedly.
- Romans 8:18-39 The privilege of suffering for Christ; God works all things together for good

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## From Condemnation to Righteousness

The Structure of Romans:

**Part 1:** Reconciliation and Righteousness – EXPLAINED

**Part 2:** Reconciliation and Righteousness - EXHIBITED in the History of the Nation of Israel

- Romans 9 God's sovereignty demonstrated in the life of Israel
- Romans 10 How to be saved - and what about those who have never heard the gospel?
- Romans 11 The hope of Israel and the hope of the church

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

The Structure of Romans:

**Part 1:** Reconciliation and Righteousness – EXPLAINED

**Part 2:** Reconciliation and Righteousness - EXHIBITED in the History of the Nation of Israel

**Part 3:** Reconciliation and Righteousness - EXPERIENCED in Everyday Living

- Romans 12 Our identity as living sacrifices; spiritual gifts; Christian love
- Romans 13:1-7 Our Christian duty toward the government
- Romans 13:8-14 How to authentically love one another
- Romans 14:1-15:13 Christian liberty; building up and accepting one another in the church
- Romans 15:14-16:27 Paul's postscript: Greetings and concluding remarks

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

**Romans 1:4** 7- Greetings: Jesus is Lord

- v.1 – “the gospel”
  - The “good news”
    - the New Covenant—restoration, glory: **Luke 22:20; 2 Cor.2:5-6**
    - *What God's justice demanded, His love provided: the sacrifice of the Spotless Lamb.*
    - Paul's personal testimony to the New Covenant: **Gal. 2:20**
- v.3 – “according to the flesh”
  - Jesus was fully man! (**Isaiah 11:1**)
    - He didn't come to “act like God” (WWJD)
    - He came as a man “filled by God” (WAIFBG)

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

**Romans 1:4** 7- Greetings: Jesus is Lord

- v.4 – Jesus is fully God: “declared the Son of God”
  - “with power”
    - proof through His miracles
  - “by the resurrection from the dead”
    - An historical fact! (**John 2:19**)
    - The basis of all Christianity—*what our faith stands on!*
  - “according to the spirit of holiness”
    - Jesus came as an unbroken or “whole” person. (**1 Thess. 5:23**)
    - “He demonstrated a complete and fully integrated human personality. He showed us what it means to be a whole person living in a world of brokenness.” (Stedman) **John 5:19**

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

**Romans 1:4** 7- Greetings: Jesus is Lord

- v.4 – “Jesus Christ our Lord”
  - **Jesus** (*Yehoshua*—the Lord is salvation): personal name
  - **Christ** (*Christos*—the Anointed One): Old Testament identity as Israel's promised Messiah
  - **Lord** (*Kurios*—Lord, Master): identification with *Yahweh*, the personal name of God in the O.T. (**Exodus 2-3; John 8:58**).
- The basis of Paul's argument: JESUS IS LORD

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

**Romans 1:4** 7- Greetings: Jesus is Lord

- v.6 – “you also are the called”
  - If we are “in Christ” then we are *the called*
    - What is your *calling*?
    - “Go therefore and make disciple” (**Matthew 28:19**)
  - Paul was called.
    - Not in **Acts 9:1-16** – on the road to Damascus
    - But in **Galatians 1:15** – “set me apart, even from my mother's womb...”
  - We'll see this in much more detail in **Romans 8:29-30**.

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

### Romans 1:4 7- Greetings: Jesus is Lord

- v.7 – “beloved of God...called as saints”
  - beloved (*agapātos*) – indicates that we are the recipients of His affection and His desire for maximum benefit.
  - Paul here is reminding us that any correction that must take place in our lives will be in a context of God’s perfect love for us.
    - 5:3-5 tribulations → perseverance → proven character → hope → love of God!
    - One way we can gauge our maturity in Christ is how we view trials and tribulations.

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

### Romans 1:8 15- Paul’s Interest: to serve

- v.8 – “First, I thank my God”
  - We are to ALWAYS approach every situation in our lives with an attitude of thankfulness (*Philippians 4:6*)
- v.8 – “because your...is being proclaimed”
  - ... enormously huge buildings, your weekly programs for all ages; your incredibly fun and engaging activities, and your abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and dancing...
  - “because your FAITH is being proclaimed”
  - How strong is our faith?
    - Are we receiving (*knowledge—Ephesians 1:17-19*) and standing (*faith—Romans 10:17*) on Truth?

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

### Romans 1:8 16- Paul’s Interest: to serve

- How do people know you?
  - When God impacts the world (and our community) through His saints, He does so through their *faith* (looking away unto Jesus—leaning our entire weight on Jesus) not *programs!*
- What was a key driving force to their strong faith?
  - vs.9-10 – Prayer!
- v.12 – Paul’s attitude:
  - *Servants live among God’s people as one of them. They do not use their position to lift themselves above others.*
    - The Gospel is spread from one beggar to the next beggar.

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

### Romans 1:8 16- Paul’s Interest: to serve

- vs.13-15 – Paul’s personal desire to go to Rome.
  - If the Lord would have granted Paul’s wishes, we wouldn’t have...
    - “The most profound work in existence” (Samuel Coleridge, English poet and literary critic)
    - “The compendium of Christian doctrine.” (Philipp Melancthon, collaborator and friend of Martin Luther)
    - “the chief part of the New Testament and the perfect gospel... the absolute epitome of the gospel.” (Luther)
  - Thank you Lord for keeping your servant Paul from Rome!

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

### Romans 1:16 7 – The Theme of Romans

- the gospel is the power of God for salvation.
  - *Gospel (Good News)*
    - The Christian Gospel is about Jesus (*its content*)
    - It reveals God’s gift of righteousness (*its significance*)
    - It brings salvation (*its outcome*) to all who believe (*its invitation*).
  - *Salvation*
    - *Past*, from the penalties of sin (*Luke 7:50*)
    - *Present*, from the power of sin in our daily lives (*Romans 5:10*)
    - *Future*, from the actual presence of sin (*1 Cor. 3:15; 5:5*)
  - Available “to everyone who believes”

## From Condemnation to Righteousness

### Making it Personal

(Truth devoid of relationship is legalism) *John 4:24*

How do people know you?

How do you want people to know you?

Do you need a personal reformation in your life?

Do you want a personal reformation in your life?

Let’s ask the Lord in our small groups to illuminate the Truth that will set us free (*John 8:32*) and to give us the courage to stand on it as Truth.