

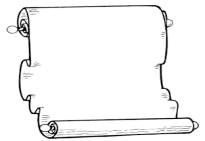
Quarter 4 Lesson 1
Sixth Grade
Trust and Obey
Romans

Students, please, get out your Bibles and be prepared to read scriptures during our lesson. A student study guide is included as a separate pdf.



The first century church had no Bibles to read and study to find out more about what was expected of them in living a Christian life. They had already obeyed the gospel. Now they met together to worship, fellowship, and serve the Lord. However, to grow in their spiritual lives, they needed to be **correctly informed** to answer questions which arose from time to time. **They needed encouragement** as well as correction. **The Holy Spirit guided special men to write letters to the churches to take care of this need.** These letters helped to **teach, warn, correct, and encourage the first Christians.**

There are **21 letters** or epistles in the New Testament. **Thirteen were written by Paul, two by the apostle Peter, one by James, and one by Jude.** Four letters **do not have the writer's name.** Three of these are associated with the apostle John and bear his name--**1,2 and 3 John.** **We do not know for sure who wrote the book of Hebrews.**



In the first century, letters were written on scrolls. Writers usually put their names at the beginning of the letter so the reader could identify the author without having to unroll the scroll.



Romans seems to have been written from Corinth during Paul's three-month stay there on his third missionary journey. Some scholars place its writing during the spring of 56-57 A.D. Others think it was during the spring of 58 A.D. This was just before Paul made his last trip to Jerusalem, was arrested, and finally sent to Rome.

No one knows how or by whom the church was established in Rome. It may have been by Jewish Christians who went there during persecutions or by other Christians who just moved and settled there. How ever it came to be established, the gospel was preached there, and people were converted. **The Roman church was made up largely of Gentiles, but there were also a number of Jewish Christians.**

Greeting:

Romans 1:1 (from Paul)

Romans 1:7 (to all who are in Rome)

Romans 1:8-12 Paul thanks God for the church at Rome and their well-known faith. Paul prays for them; he also prays that he may find a way to visit them. Of course, he had no idea at the time he wrote the letter that he would go to Rome under arrest!

Theme of Romans:

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek."

Romans 1:18 "...the wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness."

READ Romans 3:23.

Sin is a personal offense against God. God's wrath is not like man's anger. It is the natural reaction of an absolutely holy God against that which is unlike Himself and which is, therefore, unholy. Modern man often tries to believe that sin is unreal--nothing more than not conforming to traditional, conservative customs/values. God approves only of conduct compatible with His character.

READ Romans 3:24.

Justify/justification: *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary* defines and explains this term as "**the process by which sinful human beings are made acceptable by God.**" (If you had been out mud-riding on your bike and went in to a banquet where you were an invited guest, yet you had not bothered to get cleaned up, would your appearance be acceptable to the host?) "Justification is God's declaration that the demands of His Law" (Law of Moses)" have been fulfilled in the righteousness of His Son. Justification is based (1) on the work of Jesus Christ (2) accomplished through His blood, and (3) brought to His followers through His resurrection. **When God justifies, He charges the sin of man to Christ and credits the righteousness of Christ to the believer.** It is freely given.

Although Jesus paid the price for our justification, it is through our faith that He is received and His righteousness is experienced and enjoyed. Faith is considered righteousness, not as the work of man, but as the gift and work of

God." (610) **Doing good works is not a "check list" to get us into heaven. We are justified by the grace of God, through our faith in Him, and that results in doing good works. It's all about the heart--attitude!**

Let's look at the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector found in Luke 18:9-14:



Jesus was with some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt. So Jesus told them this parable:

"Two men went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector.



The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer:



'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners (*blackmailers*), unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'

'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

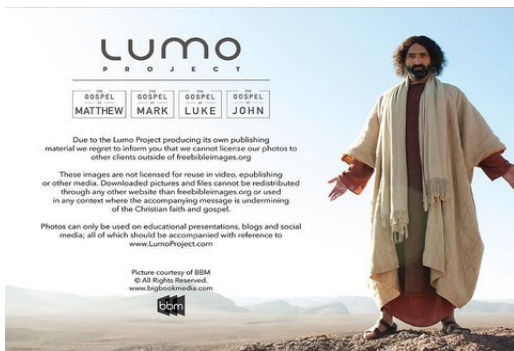


But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying,...



'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified**, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."



Remember, there were other times when Jesus also told some of the Jewish rulers that they were only concerned with following the rules of the Law and looking important but that their hearts were far from God.

The primary idea in obedience is submission!

READ Romans 4:1-3.

Paul uses Abraham as an example of being justified by faith--not by the Law of Moses (for he lived 400 years before it), not by just good works. **Abraham** showed he **had faith in the POWER OF GOD to fulfill His promise rather**

than just prove that he had enough faith to obey the commands of God. Remember when Abraham was commanded by God to offer his son Isaac on the altar? What happened?

Faith is nothing unless it has the principle of ACTION. Our obedience is a special obedience that shows **TRUST in Jesus...TRUST in God.**

Some characteristics of an obedient, trusting faith include:
peace, hope, rejoicing, grace. (*Can you think of others?*)

How can we have each of these characteristics?

READ Romans 8:31-32. "...if God is for us, who can be against us?"

READ Romans 8:38-39. "...neither life nor death...can separate us from the love of God..."

READ Romans 10:17. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

READ Romans 12:1-2. "... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God..."

READ Romans 13:9-10. "For the commandments...love your neighbor as yourself."

How can **we** follow Jesus? **REALLY FOLLOW JESUS?**

What questions about faith and obedience do you have?

How can you tell the **difference in** what is the **right** thing to do **and** what is the **wrong** thing to do? Think about it and make a list.

How can **you show** your **faith** and **obedience** every day? Think about it and make a list.

There are so many wonderful lessons in the book of Romans. Let us strive each day to love and glorify the Lord as we let our lights shine before others.

