

# Awake To Righteousness Bible Study

## Session 1

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### The True Good News - Romans 1:1-17

#### I. The True Gospel is about Jesus

**Rom 1:1** This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach His Good News.

**Rom 1:2** God promised this Good News long ago through His prophets in the holy Scriptures.

**Rom 1:3** The Good News (Gospel) is about His Son. In His earthly life He was born into King David's family line, NLT

- Galatians 3:8 says that the Gospel-the Good News about being declared righteous through faith in Jesus was preached to Abraham. The Father promised a Savior that would redeem man way back in the beginning to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15)
- **Luke 24:44** Jesus said, "I told you that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." NLT
- **John 5:39** "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to Me!
- The Good News is always about Jesus, points to Jesus, what Jesus has done for us, in us, and through us by His grace. It's about what Jesus has done to make us righteous as a free gift-faith righteousness
- Another way that pretends to be the Gospel that Paul talks about in Galatians is always about self, points to man's obedience and ability, what man has to do to be righteous before God-self righteousness

Gal 1:6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to Himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News. **Gal 1:7** but is not the Good News at all. (Galatians 3 describes the other Gospel that pretends to be Good News)

- Any message that Jesus is not the central focus is not the Good News at all and it will not bring life to it's listeners
- If the central focus of any message is not on Jesus and what He has done for us, it's not the true Gospel

**Note on Romans 1:2,3** The conflict between Law (The Old Covenant) and grace (The New Covenant) comes when people try to mix the two. As Jesus described in His parables about the new wine in the old wineskin and the new patch on the old garment ( [Luke 5:36](#)), the two covenants are not compatible. The Old Testament Law paved the way for the Gospel and pointed people toward the Gospel. If the Law is used to point out people's need and bring them to their knees through hopelessness of self-salvation, then the Gospel is used to provide salvation and relationship; there is no conflict. Conflict arises only when people refuse to use faith in God's grace as the only means of salvation and insist that some degree of adherence to the Law is required for justification- Andrew Wommack

**Rom 1:4** and He was shown to be the Son of God when He was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. NLT

**Rom 1:5** It is through Him that we have received **grace** (God's unmerited favor) and [our] apostleship to promote **obedience to the faith** and make disciples for His name's sake among all the nations, AMP

**Rom 1:6** And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. NLT

**Rom 1:7** I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be His own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace** and peace. NLT

#### II. In Romans 1:8-15 Paul explains his desire to come in person to the people of Rome so that they can encourage one another with the Good News about Jesus.

### III. Paul explains the Good News about Jesus.

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the Gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is God's power working unto **salvation**...to everyone who **believes with a personal trust** and a confident surrender and firm reliance, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, AMP

**Rom 1:17** For in the Gospel a **righteousness** which God ascribes is revealed, both springing from **faith** and leading to **faith**... As it is written, The man who through **faith** is just and upright shall live by **faith**. AMP

**Rom 1:17** This Good News tells us how God makes us **right** in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by **faith**. As the Scriptures say, "It is through **faith** that a **righteous** person has life." NLT

### IV. To fully understand the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus, we will define 4 important words that we see in Romans chapter one and will continue to see as we study the book of Romans.

1. **Grace (Look at Romans 1:5):** G5485: charis . It is translated in the following ways: "acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks" especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life: (Strong's)

**II Corinthians 1:12:** the Grace of God (the unmerited favor and merciful kindness by which God exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, and keeps, strengthens, and increases them in Christian virtues). AMP

**James 4:6** But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully

Grace is the unmerited favor of God by which He influences your heart:

- Changed your heart and gave you a brand new identity by making you righteous
- The ongoing power of the Holy Spirit at work in your heart (mind, will and emotions) that transforms you from the inside out, empowering you to bear the fruit of righteousness. (Ezekiel 36:26,27; Galatians 5:22,23)
- Grace transforms your heart

**Misconception of Grace:** teaching grace promotes sin; grace is a license to sin; an excuse to do what your flesh wants to do. If you teach people they are righteous apart from their good works, they'll live in sin

**Truth about grace:** Grace is the power to live free from sin's dominion. Those who receive grace by relying upon Jesus, have the power of the Holy Spirit working in their hearts bearing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. They no longer depend on their "good works" or "human effort," but rely upon Jesus to make them righteous and the Spirit of grace brings out the fruit of righteousness in their lives

The opposite of living by grace is living by the law: which is man, not relying upon Jesus, but depending upon His own ability to make himself righteous and earn God's favor and blessing through obedience to the law

I had never truly understood what grace is and how it made a difference in my every day life. I had spent the first 24 years of my life "trying" depending on my own ability to be good enough to have God's favor and approval. Philippians 2:13 made the power of God's grace very clear to me. "Not in your own strength for it is God who is all the while at work in you creating in you the desire and power to do what please Him. When you understand grace, you realize that you don't have to try anymore, you can begin trusting in God's power working in you through your faith in Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

2. **Faith (Look at Romans 1:16,17):** **pis'-tis** From G3982; especially *reliance* upon Christ for salvation; abstractly *constancy* in such profession; (Strong's)

**Obedience to the faith (Romans 1:5):**

- attentive hearkening to relying upon Jesus for salvation (strong's)
- Constant agreement with the Father's view of you in Christ.

- A confident surrender of our own ability and good works to make us righteous or worthy of God's favor and blessing. A complete surrender of relying upon yourself and what you have to do and completely relying upon what Jesus did for you.

Relying upon Jesus for righteousness; peace; approval; strength; value; deliverance; forgiveness; abundant blessing; healing; freedom from the curse; every promise of God

In my Christian life faith had become something I had to "do" to earn God's blessing. Words like, "I just don't have enough faith;" "I need more faith," "I'll never have as much faith as them," took the focus off of Jesus and onto my ability to have enough faith. When true faith is a complete focus on Jesus and not on myself in anyway. It's a relationship word that means to rely upon Jesus for everything you need (salvation). It's a simple confession in Him as your Savior in every situation, beginning at your initial salvation experience, and continuing throughout your life. We never stop relying upon Jesus for every blessing and promise of God.

**Romans 10:17:** So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. NLT

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

Many times in the New Testament, faith and obedience are linked together (Ac 6:7, Ro 16:26, Jas 2:14-22, and 1Pe 1:21). This is because the origin and historical development of the words "believe" and "obey" are closely related. What you believe is what you will do.-Andrew Wommack

**Misconception of Faith:** Quoting enough Scriptures; It is my responsibility to have enough faith; depending on my ability to believe good enough; trusting in something I have done to deserve God's blessing-the focus is on you and not on Jesus

**Truth about Faith:** a simple call upon Jesus for salvation in every situation and circumstance of our lives; acknowledging what Jesus has done for us and who we are in Him; He is the author and finisher of my faith

The obedience of the New Covenant is to rely upon what Jesus did for you (I John 3:23; John 6:28) When you rely upon Jesus, the Spirit of Grace empowers you to bear the fruit of God's Spirit. Obedience = relying upon Jesus  
disobedience = relying upon self

**3. salvation (4):** soteria (G4991) denotes "deliverance, preservation, salvation." the present experience of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin, inclusively, to sum up all the blessings bestowed by God on men in Christ through the Holy Spirit, (vines New Testament)

**Eph 2:8** For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [*your*] faith. And this [*salvation*] is not of yourselves [*of your own doing, it came not through your own striving*], but it is the gift of God; AMP

**Misconception of Salvation:** It's just a deliverance from hell and a ticket to heaven

**Truth of Salvation:** It is being delivered from the curse of the law because of our disobedience, and being made a partaker of every promised blessing of God because of Jesus' obedience (Deuteronomy 28:1-66; Romans 5:19)

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the Gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is God's power working unto **salvation**...to everyone who **believes with a personal trust** and a confident surrender and firm reliance, to the Jew first and also to the Greek,

A confident surrender of our own ability to save us and our own good works to make us righteous or worthy of God's favor and blessing

The Gospel is the power of God that releases the effects of salvation in our lives. Salvation is much more than just being born again. This refers to every benefit that the believer is entitled to through Jesus. The truths of the Gospel are not commonly preached or understood in many churches. This is the reason that so many Christians are not walking in all the benefits of their salvation. They don't have the power of the Gospel working in them. The word, "believeth," in this verse carries the idea of an act or process that continues. So, the person that "believeth"

is a person who has believed and is continuing to believe in the righteousness that Jesus provided. –Andrew Wommack

Colossians 2:6,7 says as you have received Jesus, so continue to live in Him established in your faith with thanksgiving for all He has done. The Good News of Jesus is God's power (grace) working in your heart and life bringing forth God's promised blessings in every area of your life as you rely upon Jesus: Romans 1:16

**4. Righteousness (46):** Innocent; free from guilt or blame; justified:

*It is the judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law. In addition to the pardon of sin, justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied. The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so **the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law** (Rom. 5:1-10). It proceeds on the crediting to the believer by God himself of the perfect righteousness, of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:3-9). Justification is not the forgiveness of a man without righteousness, but a declaration that he possesses a righteousness which perfectly and forever satisfies the law, namely, Christ's righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:6-8).  
[www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/justification.html](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/justification.html): Bible Encyclopedia*

**Faith Righteousness:** The Good News tell us how God makes us righteous in His sight by relying upon Jesus perfect obedience and not our own. It begins by faith (relying upon Jesus) and ends by faith (relying upon Jesus). It is through faith (relying upon Jesus for salvation) that a righteous man or woman has true life, and experiences the life Jesus came to give them.

I believed the lie that I was saved by grace, but then had to earn every blessing and favor of God by my good works. I believed that being righteous began by faith, but ended with my good works. But the truth is that His gift of righteousness qualifies me for every blessing. It was given to me by faith, and I experience the benefits every day by faith in what Jesus did for me. We can rest in Jesus' obedience, knowing the Holy Spirit will do the work in us and bring forth the fruit of righteousness in our lives.

**Misconception of righteousness:** The righteous shall find life by their obedience to the law. Jesus made you righteous, but you keep yourself righteous

**Truth about righteousness:** Jesus made you righteous forever with no help from you. The righteous shall find life by their continual reliance upon Jesus.

Romans 1:16,17: 16 I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus for it is God's Power (the Spirit of Grace that transforms my heart and life) working unto salvation (the manifestation of forgiveness, peace, provision, healing, acceptance, approval, righteousness, wisdom, guidance, joy, love, self-control, faithfulness, blessed and righteous children, peace in your home) to everyone who believes with a personal trust and confident surrender of his own ability to save himself and relies completely on Jesus. 17 The Good News tells us that God makes us righteous (innocent, free from blame or guilt, qualified for every blessing) in His sight by relying upon Jesus. This begins by relying upon Jesus and ends by relying upon Jesus. It is through relying upon Jesus that I experience true life! I live by relying upon Jesus for everything I need!

**Awake to Righteousness: The Good News is that God made you righteous in His sight by your reliance upon Jesus. You forever qualify for every promised blessing! When you continually rely upon Jesus, and not yourself, you will find true life, and experience the power of the Gospel unto salvation in every area of your life!**