

## “Grace & Peace to You”

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

Bible Class Instructor: Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member

## ROMANS 15: WHERE DO WE STAND? – PT 1

In a previous Lesson we studied the phrase, “*the righteousness of GOD.*” In that context Paul is not referring to an element of GOD’s “*character*” but to the “*activity by which He has made a way for ‘mankind’ to be made righteous.*” Our “*Righteousness*” is the result of GOD having judged us individually and brought us into “*right-standing*” with Him. HE made them “*Just / Justified.*” And the way He has accomplished this is through the operation of “*faith...*” (ROM 1:17)

- [Believing His Word / His Promise to Save...](#)
- [Believing in His “Way” to Salvation ...](#)
- [Believing in His Son, JESUS CHRIST and His Death, and Resurrection.](#)

GOD’S “*Way of Righteousness*” has been declared from the beginning... **It has NOT been secret.**

In fact, EVERY *religion, philosophy,* and every “*man-made way*” to avoid “*GOD’S WAY to Righteousness*” **leads to FAILURE.**

### THE PATH TO RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD...

In [ECCLESIASTES 3:11](#) we are told that GOD has placed the “*cry for eternity*” in the hearts of all mankind. This “*Eternal Longing*” is *that “something inside” that seeks to be filled* – it is in fact the “*spirit within every man and woman*” ... HOWEVER, since the “*FALL*” **it has been separated from GOD.** That separation is the result of SIN and is what we often call, “*spiritual death.*”

In [ROMANS 1:18-4:25](#), Paul presents 4 major responses by which humanity has attempted to fill that “*emptiness*” ... somehow trying to find “**Right-Standing with God.**”

**HEDONISM** – ROM 1:18-32 – *Don’t want it... Don’t need it... Don’t even care... MY Life / MY Way*

**MORALISM** – ROM 2:1-26 – *My Good is enough... I’m better than THEM... God will accept MY Way...*

**LEGALISM** – ROM 2:17 – 3:20 – *I KNOW what God Demands... I DO them... My way is Perfect...*

**GRACE-ISM** – ROM 3:21 - 4:25 – *I FAILED... I have NOTHING to approach God with... I NEED His Help...*

**LEGALISM: I Know ALL God's Demands... I DID Them... I've MADE My Way Perfect...**

This “**path**” Paul knows so well... **He LIVED it!**

[PHIL 3:4-6](#) *If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:*

*<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day ... of the people of Israel... of the tribe of Benjamin... a Hebrew of Hebrews... as to THE LAW, a Pharisee... <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church... as to righteousness under THE LAW blameless.*

MARK 10:17-20 And as [JESUS] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”<sup>18</sup> And JESUS said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except GOD alone.”<sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder; Do not commit adultery; Do not steal; Do not bear false witness; Do not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>20</sup> And he said to [JESUS], “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”

**But GOD doesn't let us off that easily. GOD WILL NOT allow humanity to glory in their OWN righteousness.** Although the Law is good it's demands CANNOT be fulfilled by “fallen mankind.”

ROM 7:16-18 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with THE LAW, that it is good.<sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.

For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. [see also 1 Tim 1:8]

GAL 2:19 Why then THE LAW? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

<sup>21</sup> Is THE LAW then contrary to the promises of GOD? Certainly not! For if a LAW had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by THE LAW.

## ROMANS 15: WHERE DO WE STAND? – PT 2

GAL 2:23-24 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.<sup>24</sup> So then, THE LAW was our guardian until CHRIST came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

ROM 10:1-4 Brothers, my heart's desire, and my prayers to GOD for them is that they may be saved.

<sup>2</sup> For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for GOD, but not according to knowledge.<sup>3</sup> For, being ignorant of the righteousness of GOD, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to GOD'S righteousness.<sup>4</sup> For CHRIST is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

ROM 2:23-24 You who boast in THE LAW dishonor GOD by breaking THE LAW.<sup>24</sup> For, as it is written, “The name of GOD is blasphemed among the Gentiles BECAUSE OF YOU!”

ROM 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever THE LAW says it speaks to those who are under THE LAW, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to GOD.<sup>20</sup> For by works of THE LAW no human being will be justified in his sight, since through THE LAW comes knowledge of sin.

## GRACE-ISM: I Have NOTHING In Myself... I Need GOD's Help...

(That's MY word...) Here's Paul:

1 TIM 1:13-16 [THE VOICE] *Despite the fact that at one time I was slandering the things of GOD, persecuting and attacking His people, He was still merciful to me because I acted in ignorance apart from faith.* <sup>14</sup> *But He poured His grace over me, and I was flooded in an abundance of the grace and faith and love that can only be found in JESUS THE ANOINTED.*

<sup>15</sup> *Here's a statement worthy of trust: JESUS THE ANOINTED, the Liberating King, came into the world to save sinners, and I am the worst of them all.* <sup>16</sup> *But it is for this reason I was given mercy: by displaying His perfect patience in me, the very worst of all sinners, JESUS THE ANOINTED could show that patience to all who would believe in HIM and gain eternal life.*

There is only ONE way to FIND, RECEIVE, and LIVE in the "Right-standing" GOD has prepared for us... The WAY of Grace through JESUS CHRIST.

GAL 2:15-16 *We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;* <sup>16</sup> *YET we know that a person is not justified by works of THE LAW but through faith in JESUS CHRIST, so we also have believed in CHRIST JESUS, in order to be justified by faith in CHRIST and not by works of THE LAW, because by works of THE LAW no one will be justified.*

ROM 4:16 *That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of THE LAW but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham...*

And there is only ONE way to receive that grace... BY FAITH!

ROM 3:21-26 *But now the righteousness of GOD has been manifested apart from THE LAW, although THE LAW and THE PROPHETS bear witness to it—* <sup>22</sup> *the righteousness of GOD through faith in JESUS CHRIST for all who believe. For there is no distinction:* <sup>23</sup> *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* <sup>24</sup> *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS,* <sup>25</sup> *whom GOD put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show GOD'S righteousness, because in his divine forbearance HE had passed over former sins.* <sup>26</sup> *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, SO THAT HE might be JUST and THE JUSTIFIER of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Having proved the other approaches FALSE, Paul begins in ROM 3:21 to present a *logical progression* that leads from SALVATION to SANCTIFICATION to SPIRITUAL VICTORY, to a LIFE OF SERVICE.

**THIS is PAUL'S GOSPEL... It is THE GOSPEL OF GOD**