

Romans 3:21- 4:3, Justified.

The fact of sin, Romans **3:23**: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10: As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.

The penalty of sin, Rom. 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

Rom. 5:12: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Sin spread throughout the whole world and everything began to grow old and die).

Verses to memorize this week: **Must be Paid, Romans 10b**; For we all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Hebrews 9:27; And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

Hebrews 2:2-3; For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.

During this time of being isolated at home is a good time to work on memorizing scripture and I hope you will make an effort to do so. The Lord has not given us the spirit of fear. He has promised to be with us (believers) at all times. Trust God that He is the **Good Father** that gives good gifts to His children, sustains and protects them.

You should study the lesson as written in the quarterly, but I hope you will forgive me and permit me to teach on the important things the quarterly skips over. My lesson for this week is completely different from the quarterly.

Romans, chapter four, is all about the faith of Abraham. He believed God and acted upon the things God told him to do. Read Romans 4:18-25 to see how great he believed that God would do things with him that seemed utterly impossible. Notice that Abraham had patience to wait for God to do the things promised and he believed that God would complete them, even the promises that will be fulfilled after Abraham has died. Because he had faith, God counted it for righteousness and therefore justified him. Verse 24 points out that righteousness is imputed to us the same way; our faith and trust in Jesus is accounted to us as righteousness and we are justified in God's sight.

Read Romans 5:8, “***But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***” Many people think they have to reform themselves before they can ask God to forgive them. The gospel teaches over and over that there is nothing we can do to make us look good to God. Jesus saves sinners. He did not come to save the good people, He came and died for sinners.

Now, we come to the part that I consider to be the real lesson to teach this week:

**ONE MAN CAUSED DEATH,
ONE MAN BROUGHT SALVATION.**

READ ROMANS 5:12. This is one of our memory verses we learned earlier under **The Penalty of Sin.** Adam knew the penalty of eating of the forbidden fruit and he knowingly ate of it. Adam's body did not die at that time because God killed an animal to make a covering for their naked bodies and from that time on, there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. The animal died as a substitute for their deaths and the skin was used to cover the evidence of their sin. This represents Christ dying for our sins and making the atonement with His own blood to cover the evidence of sin for all who will believe. Even though Adam did not die bodily at that time, he did die 930 years later, which in God's time was still the day that he sinned (a thousand years is as one day with God). The bible does not say it, but I believe that God showed Adam how to make a blood sacrifice at certain times and he was to teach his family. The father of each household was the priest to make the sacrifices for his family. Cain was taught that a blood sacrifice was demanded, but he offered a sacrifice of things he grew in the cursed ground.

READ ROMANS 5:13-14. Paul is not saying that from Adam until the Law of Moses that sin was not penalized. He is just saying that the law of God, which man knew by intuition was still enforced but with the giving of the Law in written form, everyone knew what sin was, and that it was forbidden. The proof is that the penalty of sin was enforced and that everybody is doomed to die in the body.

Carefully, and repeatedly read **ROMANS 5:15-19.** The **one** sin of Adam brought the penalty of death to all mankind and the **one** sacrifice of Christ paid the penalty of sin for all mankind for all time. What a contrast between what Adam did and what Christ did. What a difference between Man's sin and God's grace.

What I get from this lesson is: It makes it clear how we became lost and how easy God has made it for us to obtain eternal life with Him.

Next week: I will stay with the quarterly printed lesson in **Romans 6:1-23.**

I pray that you will put your trust in God and the promises of Jesus: He will never leave you; He will sustain your needs and protect you in more ways than you can count.

Charles Harris