

The image features a background of ancient Roman ruins, including a large, circular stone structure and various rectangular blocks. A semi-transparent cross-shaped overlay is present on the right side of the image. The word "ROMANS" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

# ROMANS

**Week #1: The Gospel is “Good News”:** (Romans 1:2-6)

1. It was promised long ago by God.
2. It is about His Son:
  - He is fully human – a descendent of King David.
  - He is fully God – raised from death by the Holy Spirit.
3. His name is Jesus Christ!
4. He is for everyone ... all people, all nations, all of us.

*... But why is Jesus good news... and why do I need him?*

**Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality:** (Romans 1:17-3:20)

**... No One Is Righteous In God's Sight.**

**1<sup>18</sup>** *The **wrath** of God is being revealed against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness ...*

**Key:** *What does God's wrath look like? What does He do?*

- He *abandons* us to our choices.
- He lets us have what we want ... *all* of it.

## **Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality:** (Romans 1:17-3:20)

### **1. The Pagan:** (1:18-32)

- God *lets me choose* what I do with my life.
- God has boundaries. He will not join me in my rebellion & folly.
- When I reject what I know is right, God lets me experience *ALL* the consequences of my choices.
- God is not to blame for my problems ... I am.

## **Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality:** (Romans 1:17-3:20)

1. The Pagan: (1:18-32)

2. **The Self-Righteous:** (2:1-16)

- There *will* be a day of reckoning ... for me, too.
- When God judges me, He will be impartial.
- When God judges me, He will be fair.
- When God judges me, He will miss nothing.
- When God judges me, He wants Jesus to be there.

## **Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality:** (Romans 1:17-3:20)

1. The Pagan: (1:18-32)
2. The Self-Righteous: (2:1-16)
3. **The Religious:** (2:17-3:20)

Even the most strident religious commitment:

- cannot remove my guilt.
- does not replace my emptiness.
- will not repair my brokenness.
- cannot restore my relationship with God.

**Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality:** (Romans 1:17-3:20)

***<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.***

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**Our Dilemma:** All of us stand before God morally deficient.

- the *pagan*, the *self-righteous* and the *religious* all share the same fate – an inability to satisfy God's moral standard ... *Perfection*.

**The Truth:** The only righteousness acceptable to God is His own.

- the way to God is impossible by human effort

**Question:** Is My Dilemma Fair?

- Is it fair that God holds me to a righteousness that I cannot attain?

**It would perhaps be unfair if God didn't do anything about it, but He has done something ...**

- **In Jesus, God has imparted upon me the one thing needed – His Righteousness in place of mine!**

***<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.***



## Last Week: The Gospel is Good News:

### 1. Because it satisfies my need for righteousness: (Rom. 3:20-25a)

- In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God’s sight!
  - a. a righteousness not connected with keeping the law. (v.21a)
  - b. a righteousness promised by God throughout the Old Testament. (v.21b)
  - c. a righteousness acquired by faith in Jesus. (v.22a)
  - d. a righteousness God provides to anyone who believes. (v.22b)
  - e. a righteousness given through God’s grace alone. (v.23-24)
  - f. a righteousness fully paid in Jesus – full redemption . (v. 24)

*<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> **God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.***

*<sup>6</sup> All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left  
God's paths to follow our own way; And the LORD has  
laid on him the sins of all of us.*

Isaiah 53



***5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.  
The punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.***

***6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left  
God's paths to follow our own way; And the LORD has  
laid on him the sins of all of us.***

***10 It was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to  
suffer ... making his life an offering for sin.***

Isaiah 53

**Question: Why was Jesus crushed for our sins? ...**

- **Can't God simply forgive us and move on?**



**Last Week's Issue: My sin ... *I must be justified.***

<sup>23</sup> Jesus told them, “The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with servants who had borrowed money from him. <sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> **He couldn't pay the debt ...**

<sup>26</sup> ... **“But his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”**

Matthew 18

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**This Week's Issue: God's justice ... *it must be satisfied.***

**Key Point:** The Cross of Christ is about God's righteous character.

- Jesus' death is not first about appeasing an *angry* God ... but satisfying a *just* God.

God's righteousness (or justice) is the natural expression of His holiness. Because He is infinitely pure, He is opposed to all sin, and that opposition to sin is demonstrated in His treatment of it – His actions are in perfect agreement with His holy nature.

When we say that God is just, we are saying that He always does what is right, what should be done, and that He does it consistently, without partiality or prejudice.

R.L. Strauss

**Problem:** Can God simply forgive sinners and let them walk away?  
... Is not the Judge responsible to uphold the Law?

**Solution:** God is so committed to mercy that He forgives ... and He is so committed to justice that He puts His Son on a cross to pay in full the penalty for sin.

- in Jesus Christ every sin has been fully paid.
- in Jesus, God's wrath is *appeased* ... because His justice is *satisfied* – my penalty is paid in full!

## This Week: The Gospel is Good News: (Part 2)

### 2. Because it satisfies *God's* need for justice: (Rom. 3:25-30)

- In Jesus, God's righteous character is displayed!

<sup>23</sup> All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood. **This sacrifice shows that God was being fair ...** <sup>26</sup> **he did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.**

## **This Week: The Gospel is Good News: (Part 2)**

### **2. Because it satisfies *God's* need for justice:** (Rom. 3:25-30)

- In Jesus, God's righteous character is displayed!
- a. His character is declared across His Creation. (v.26)

*<sup>26</sup> ...God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.*



*<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5

*<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins & in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

Colossians 2

## **This Week: The Gospel is Good News: (Part 2)**

### **2. Because it satisfies *God's* need for justice:** (Rom. 3:25-30)

- In Jesus, God's righteous character is displayed!
  - a. His character is declared across His Creation. (v.26)
  - b. His character is declared throughout history.** (v.v. 25-26)

*This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, <sup>26</sup> for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time.*

## Romans 4

**4 Take Abraham for instance:** *He was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God?*  
*<sup>2</sup> If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. <sup>3</sup> For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." <sup>4</sup> When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. <sup>5</sup> But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners ...*

*<sup>18</sup> Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—he never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. <sup>21</sup> He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. <sup>22</sup> And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous. <sup>23</sup> And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded <sup>24</sup> for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.*

## This Week: The Gospel is Good News: (Part 2)

### 2. Because it satisfies *God's* need for justice: (Rom. 3:25-30)

- In Jesus, God's righteous character is displayed!
  - a. His character is declared across His Creation. (v.26)
  - b. His character is declared throughout history. (v.v. 25-26)
  - c. His character demonstrates His grace. (v.v. 27-28)

*<sup>27</sup> Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. <sup>28</sup> So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.*

*<sup>13</sup> Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. <sup>15</sup> For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!) <sup>16</sup> So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's.*

Romans 4

## This Week: The Gospel is Good News: (Part 2)

### 2. Because it satisfies *God's* righteousness: (Rom. 3:25-30)

- In Jesus, God's holy, righteous character is displayed!
  - a. His character is declared across His Creation. (v.26)
  - b. His character is declared throughout history. (v.v. 25-26)
  - c. His character demonstrates His grace. (v.v. 27-28)
  - d. His character is for everyone. (v.v. 29-30)

*<sup>29</sup> After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. <sup>30</sup> There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.*

When a sinner is justified by God, the Lord does not fake Himself out and view the individual as innocent of sin. Rather, the divine act of justification declares a sinner absolutely acceptable to the Heavenly Father from the moment they trust in Christ's payment for their sin. **And since the Father is satisfied with His Son, He is also satisfied with all those who are in His Son through faith.**

Swindoll

**Summary:** Jesus died in my place because I am *guilty* and because God is *just*.





*<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5