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THE LOOKOUT

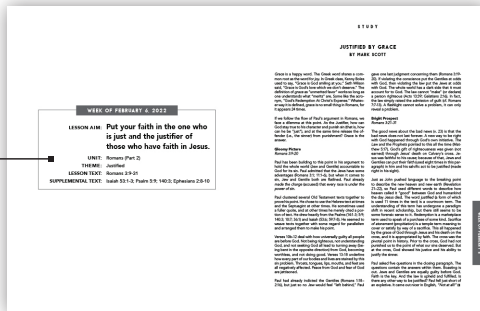
FEBRUARY 2022

Unit: ROMANS (Part 2)
Theme: JUSTIFIED

Overview: To justify something means you make it right—whether it is the margins of a term paper, aligning the front end of a car, or correcting the behavior of an individual. There is no greater book than Romans to discuss being made right with God (justification). Students will learn how they are justified by grace through faith for glory in eternity.

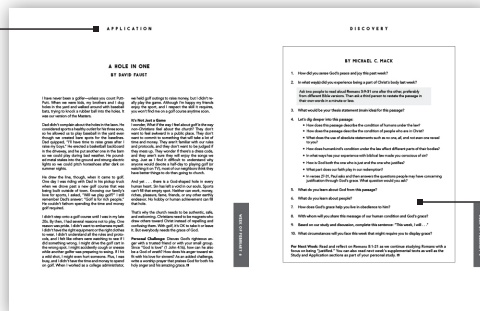
HOW TO USE

Each week has a **lesson aim**, **lesson text**, and **supplemental text**.



Tabs indicate the week of each lesson.

Each week features three sections: **Study**, **Application**, and **Discovery**.



Use the **Discovery** questions to study, discuss, and apply the Scripture passages in a group or class.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27, 2022

LESSON AIM: **Confess faith that Jesus is Lord, risen from the dead.**

UNIT: Romans (Part 2)

THEME: Justified

LESSON TEXT: Romans 10:1-15

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT: Deuteronomy 30:11-16; Joel 2:32;
1 Corinthians 15:1-8

JUSTIFIED AND SAVED

BY MARK SCOTT

Words matter. Jesus said as much (Matthew 12:36-37). The things we say reveal our hearts. Our professions and confessions in life are indicative of what we believe. To confess that Jesus is our Lord is therefore no small thing. We lay claim to salvation when we confess Jesus in both lip and life.

In Romans 9–11, Paul marked out how God’s salvific plan related to both Jews and Gentiles. The Jews had some definite advantages over the Gentiles, but sometimes they compromised those advantages. The Gentiles sometimes displayed more righteousness by following their consciences, but even then they were guilty of suppressing God’s truth. So, both Jews and Gentiles had to place their faith in Christ to be “justified and saved.” Romans 9 ended with Paul telling the church that the Jews stumbled over “a rock” (Jesus) in attempting to establish their own righteousness. Romans 10 furthered his argument by giving the “reason” for this stumbling. The text details three “body parts” (metaphors) that will help us embrace justification.

Heart for Salvation*Romans 10:1-4*

Chapters 10 and 11 both begin by announcing that God had not given up on the Jews (nor had Paul). Paul’s heart longed for his fellow Jews to experience God’s salvation with all their hearts. His *desire* (thinking well of) and *prayer* (“specific” request) for Israel was that she be saved. Paul acknowledged Israel’s zeal for God. But it was Paul’s “God-intoxicated prayer” (as John Walvoord called it in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*) that their zeal would be rooted in knowledge. Few things in life are as dangerous as zeal without knowledge.

The Jews tried to wrestle God’s righteousness to the ground and *establish* (be made to stand) their own righteousness. They wanted salvation the old-fashioned way (i.e., to earn it). This gave evidence that they *did not submit to God’s righteousness*. They failed to understand that Christ was the *culmination* (“end”; i.e., intended goal in that he fulfilled it—Matthew 5:17) of the law. So, to pursue righteousness by the law would frustrate the plan of God in Christ. Locating salvation in Christ alone meant that righteousness could be *for everyone who believes*. All could have a heart for salvation.

Mouth Confessing Salvation*Romans 10:5-13*

The spoken word is discussed throughout this section. Moses spoke Leviticus 18:5 before he ever wrote it down

(“*The person who does these things will live by them*”). “Say” or “says” appear three times in this section. “Word” appears only once, but it is the term for “spoken word” (*rhema*). “Mouth” appears three times, and “calls” appears once. “Declare” appears once but is the word for “confess.” The reason for Paul’s confidence in the spoken word is because of his confidence in the heart to hold to the right things.

God does not bestow salvation because someone forces him to give it. One cannot do anything to affect the incarnation (going up to heaven to bring Christ down to earth) or the resurrection (bringing Christ up from the grave). Faith simply affirms what God has done in Christ. To underline the simplicity of this, Paul used Deuteronomy 30:12-14 for his argument. God’s message in Christ is not hidden away in some far corner of the universe. It is as near as he has made his revelation.

Romans 10:9-10 supremely underlines the significance of our confession of faith. Giving voice to the earliest of confessions (*Jesus is Lord*) shows what the heart believes, and it is a confession that brings about salvation. [Of course, this is not to negate other imperatives of salvation that must also be appropriated by faith.] Paul used two other texts to affirm this (Isaiah 28:16 and Joel 2:32). To believe in God will never result in *shame*, and to call on the name of the Lord will result in salvation.

Feet Bring Salvation*Romans 10:14-15*

Paul asked four “progressive” questions in one of the more beautiful passages in Romans. Calling on God’s name for salvation cannot happen without believing the message. The message cannot be believed if no one hears it. No one can hear the message unless someone preaches to them. And no one can preach the message unless that person has not been authorized (*sent*, i.e., the verb for the word *apostle*).

Paul rooted this order in Isaiah 52:7. Prior to the salvific call of the messianic Servant (Isaiah 52:13–53:12), Isaiah blessed those who brought good news. Their feet were *beautiful* (attractive, or comely, used of virgins getting ready for their marriage).

Salvation involves the whole person. A meditative exercise might be to hold your hand over your heart, open your mouth in witness, and look down at your feet. ■

APPLICATION

EVERYONE NEEDS TRUTH AND LOVE

BY DAVID FAUST

On a shelf in my office sits a 4-by-6-inch frame containing this short message: “Teach the Bible, Love the People.” That little plaque reminds me about two key priorities in ministry found in Romans 10.

Teach the Bible

“Faith comes from hearing the message” (Romans 10:17). Everyone needs to hear God’s Word. “And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (v. 14). The apostle Paul summed up his ministry by saying, “I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house” (Acts 20:20). His goal? “To proclaim to you the whole will of God” (Acts 20:27). That is my job as a minister of the gospel, too, and it must be a priority for the church.

If we don’t teach God’s Word, who will? Will others hear it from the secular media? Will they get it from the government? Will they stumble onto it online? Parents have a sacred duty to integrate scriptural truth into our families’ daily lives, and not merely rely on others to educate our children. Moses instructed the Israelites to keep God’s commandments in their hearts. “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Preachers, our goal is not to entertain the crowd, show off our speaking skills, parrot popular speakers, or push our personal viewpoints. Our job is to proclaim the Word of God, allowing biblical truth to inform, persuade, and shape our listeners. Jesus told us to make disciples, baptizing them “and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Scriptures show us how to obey what Jesus called the greatest commandments: to love God and love our neighbors. That’s why Paul told Timothy,

“Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13). The prophet Jeremiah considered God’s Word a fire in his bones that he couldn’t hold in (Jeremiah 20:9). May that same fire always burn in us.

Love the People

Teaching the Bible doesn’t have to be a dull, dry transfer of information. Before Paul talked about preaching in Romans 10, he expressed his love for others. He started the chapter by saying, “My heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved” (Romans 10:1). One chapter earlier, Paul said, “I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart” for those who don’t know Christ (Romans 9:2). The love of Christ—sincere concern for others—motivated him.

Bars and coffee shops are popular, not just because of alcohol and caffeine. Our neighbors are seeking connection, compassion, and community. If the church doesn’t love people well in every season of life, where will they turn? Who will walk with them from birth till death? Who will listen to their questions, shoulder their burdens, and care for them in times of need? Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

“Speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15)—that’s the prescription for a healthy, maturing church. Those two key priorities will never go out of style. Everyone needs to know God’s will, and everyone needs to be loved.

Personal Challenge: Do your church’s programs prioritize teaching God’s Word and loving/serving people? How do you personally spend your money and your time? Do your own budget and calendar show that teaching the Bible and loving others are high priorities for you? ■

DISCOVERY

BY MICHAEL C. MACK

1. As you served God last week, what trouble or hardship did you face?
2. Whom did you encourage last week (using the encouragements from last week's passage)?

Ask two people to read aloud **Romans 10:1-15** one after the other, preferably from different Bible versions. Then ask a third person to restate the passage in their own words in one minute or less.

3. How would you summarize this passage in one sentence?
4. Let's dig deeper into the passage:
 - What was Paul's motive for writing this?
 - Paul illustrated this passage using the body parts of the heart, mouth, and feet. In general, how do these object lessons help you understand his message?
 - What do you learn from the comparisons between the righteousness that is by the law and God's righteousness that comes by faith?
 - We don't need to search for Jesus by going up to heaven or down to the depths. He is near. How does this help you know Jesus better?
 - How might it instruct you on sharing your faith with others?
 - How do repentance and baptism work together with declaring with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart God raised him from the dead?
5. What do you learn about God from this passage?
6. What do you learn about people?
7. What would it practically look like for you to have a heart for salvation?
 - What would it look and sound like for your mouth to confess Jesus' salvation and lordship?
 - What does it specifically look like for your feet to bring good news?
8. To whom will you take good news this week?
9. Based on our study and discussion, complete this sentence: "This week, I will . . ."
10. What circumstances will you face this week for which you could use God's grace or strength?

For Next Week: Read and reflect on **Romans 8:1-4, 11-23** as we continue studying Romans but with a new theme: Holy. You can also read next week's supplemental texts as well as the Study and Application sections as part of your personal study. ■