

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

Indictment Of & Remedy For Man's Sin (Rom. 1:18 – 5:21)

Introduction

Having made his personal remarks in the thematic opening to the letter, Paul begins to build his case for sinful man's only hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ: justification by grace through faith. Paul starts at the beginning, proving all men are in sin and in need of God's mercy extended in His Son's sacrificial death.

- ◆ The Gentiles must know their depraved behavior has led them away from God (1:18-32)
- ◆ The Jews must know they can't rely on their identity as God's first covenant people (2:1-29)
- ◆ All must realize they have sinned and come short of God's expectations (3:1-23)

The only solution to sin is two-pronged: 1) *Christ died for our justification*; and 2) *we must respond to that gracious act with obedient faith* (3:24 – 5:11). Then, and only then, can we fully realize God's powerful ability to rescue us from ourselves (5:12-21; cp. 1:16).

Indictment #1 → Gentiles Are Guilty (1:18-32)

1. What do sinners do to the truths God has revealed for their lives? (v. 18b) Define this behavior in your own words. How does God react to this? (v. 18a)
2. Why is this behavior foolish on our part? (vv. 19-21) *Thought question:* how can we come to know an invisible God?
3. Using vv. 22-32, list the sins we usually classify as "major" and "minor." What does the fact they are found in one "list" tell us about "classifying" sin? What is the realistic view of such behaviors? (v. 32)

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

Indictment #2 → Jews Are Guilty (2:1-29)

4. What gives the impression that Paul is now speaking to Jews? *[Note vv. 9-10, 12-15, 17-29]*
 5. Of what were the Jews primarily guilty? (vv. 1-3) Where else in the N.T. can we read of the Jews exhibiting this behavior?
 6. What important point were the Jews overlooking? (v. 4; 2 Pet. 3:3-9, 11) *Thought question:* reconcile God's "patience" of 2:4 with His "giving up" on others from 1:24, 26, 28.
 7. How will God's judgment be meted out upon those guilty of sin? (vv. 5-10) *Reminder:* do not forget the point made in vv. 9-10. How is God's fairness emphasized in His dealings with men in sin? (vv. 11-13) *Thought question:* where else is this taught in the N.T.?
 8. Who does Paul describe in vv. 14-16, and what do you see as the main point of these verses? *Thought question:* what is stressed about human beings in these verses?

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

9. To what group of people does Paul return in vv. 17-29? What character traits does the apostle see in the Jews? (vv. 17-20) Is this a commendation or something else from Paul?

10. Why was it important for Paul to elaborate in vv. 21-23? (vv. 24-25) Because of such inconsistency, what becomes of such a one's "religion"? (v. 26) What eventually happens to him? (v. 27)

11. How does Paul describe the "true" Jew? (vv. 28-29; 9:6b-8; Mt. 3:9)

12. Application Questions:
 - a) Substitute "Christian" for "Jew" & "gospel of Christ" for "Law" in vv. 17-23. What application would this have for us today?

 - b) Has the Lord's work ever been hindered because of some who call themselves "Christians" but who have not behaved properly? What did the Lord Himself say about "stumbling blocks?"

 - c) Substitute "baptism" for "circumcision" in v. 25. How have some placed an improper value upon immersion, and how has this hurt the cause of the kingdom of Christ?

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

Conclusion → All Are Guilty (3:1-23)

13. Even though Paul has “prioritized” the Jews’ literal heritage, did that mean they never were in a favored position? (vv. 1-2) What was their God-given benefit?

 14. Despite their favored position, does the Jews’ unbelief cast God in a bad light? (vv. 3-4) From what O.T. passage does the apostle quote, and how does he apply it in his defense of God?

 15. What point do you think Paul is making with the questions he asks and answers in vv. 5-8?

 16. How does Paul conclude his indictment of the Jews? (v. 9) How does he prove it? (vv. 10-18) After considering these passages from the O.T., what were the Jews to conclude? (vv. 19-20)
Thought question: up to this point, what kind of picture has been painted about man?

 17. Apart from a “law system,” what has God done? (vv. 21-22) *Thought question:* how was this shown? (Gal. 3:7-14) What is the sweeping indictment of all? (v. 23)

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

God's Remedy → Justification By Grace Through Faith (3:24 – 5:21)

18. What has God done to justify man? (3:24-25) How will God be seen in our justification? (3:26)
What does this do to the Jewish argument about gaining justification by "commandment keeping"? (3:27-30) What does God's scheme of justification do for the Law? (3:31)
 19. Who does Paul begin to use as a "case study" to show justification by faith in 4:1? Why would this example be especially prudent to persuade the Jews? (Mt. 3:9)
 20. What does Paul teach about Abraham in 4:2-5? How is Paul's teaching confirmed? (4:6-8)
 21. *Research question:* using the chart below, determine when Abraham was justified by his faith. What does this teach us about the *kind* of faith those who are justified possess?

Gen. 12:4	75 years old when he left Haran (Heb. 11:8)	
Gen. 15:1-6	Told of his "numberless seed"	** <u>BELIEVED</u>
Gen. 16:16	86 years old when Ishmael was born	
Gen. 17:1-5 Rom. 4:17ff	99 years old when Isaac was promised	** <u>BELIEVED</u>
Gen. 22:1-19 Jas. 2:21-23	Sacrificed Isaac (Heb. 11:17)	** <u>BELIEVED</u>

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

22. Who is to be justified? (4:9) How do we know it is not just for the Jews? (4:10-12) To what point in Abraham's life does Paul specifically allude to illustrate what it means to be "justified by grace through faith"? (4:13-21; *notice esp. vv. 13-14, 18-19*) What specific statements illustrate Abraham's faith? What was the outcome of all this? (4:22)
 23. How does Paul apply the truths just presented about Abraham? (4:23-25) *Thought question:* how do these verses refute the Calvinistic doctrine of Christ's perfect life being imputed to us?
 24. What is the immediate reward for the justified man? (5:1) To what does it lead? (5:2) How does it embolden us? (5:3-5) What role is played by the Holy Spirit? (5:5; 2 Cor. 5:5)
 25. How does Paul demonstrate the depths of the love of God the Father and God the Son toward sinful men? (5:6-8) How does Paul demonstrate the grace of God through Christ's sacrifice? (5:9-11)

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Lesson 3

26. How did sin enter the world, and what were the consequences of this action? (5:12-13) When reading “death” in this section, is it physical or spiritual?
27. In the space provided below, list the contrasts Paul makes between the man Adam and the Man Jesus Christ (5:14-19). What do you see as the main idea(s) of this section?

ADAM	JESUS CHRIST

28. For what purpose did the Law come? (5:20; Gal. 3:19) What has always been God’s “answer” to sin? (5:20-21)