

S T U D Y G U I D E

ROMANS COURSE

JOSH STRELECKI

Lesson 2

The Gospel of God, Paul's Apostleship, Man's Continual Departure from God

The Gospel of God, Paul's Apostleship, and Man's Departure from God
(Romans 1–2)

INTRODUCTION

Lesson 2 builds upon the historical foundation introduced in Lesson 1 by exploring the core message Paul was separated unto—the Gospel of God. Paul begins his letter to the Romans by defining this gospel as “concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,” showing that all of God’s good news centers in the person and work of Christ. This lesson traces how the Gospel of God unfolds into the Gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation, and introduces Paul’s apostleship—his unique commission from the risen Lord to proclaim this message among all nations. The lesson concludes by examining humanity’s historical departure from God, establishing the universal guilt of mankind and the need for the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Define the Gospel of God and understand its Old Testament promises.
- Distinguish between the Gospel of God and the Gospel of Christ and how they relate.
- Explain Paul’s apostleship and his divine separation unto the gospel.
- Understand what it means to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.
- Recognize that salvation is from God, by God, and to God—rooted in His righteousness.
- Summarize Paul’s opening argument on man’s universal sinfulness and departure from God.
- See how the revelation of God’s wrath underscores the need for His righteousness.

KEY IDEAS

- The Gospel of God was promised beforehand by the prophets and concerns Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1–3).
 - Paul was separated unto this gospel and commissioned by the risen Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The gospel centers on God’s Son, “made of the seed of David according to the flesh,” and “declared to be the Son of God with power” by the resurrection.
 - Paul’s apostleship was a divine calling to bring the “obedience of faith among all nations for His name.”
 - The Gospel of Christ reveals “the power of God unto salvation” and “the righteousness of God” (Romans 1:16–17).
 - Humanity’s universal problem: the wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).
 - Paul demonstrates the historical and ongoing departure of mankind from God—from creation to his own day.
 - Every person—Jew and Gentile alike—is without excuse before God and under sin (Romans 3:9).
-

OUTLINE

The Gospel of God, Paul’s Apostleship, and Man’s Departure from God
Romans 1–2

I. Review and Transition from Lesson 1

1. Lesson 1 covered Paul’s background and relationship with the believers in Rome.
 - Paul’s letter serves as his preaching in absence.
 - The purpose: to establish the believers in the gospel of Christ.
 - Romans provides the foundational doctrines for edification.
 2. Lesson 2 moves from historical context to doctrinal content.
 - Focus: The Gospel of God, Paul’s apostleship, the Gospel of Christ, and man’s departure from God.
-

II. The Gospel of God (Romans 1:1–4)

A. Paul’s Separation unto the Gospel of God

1. Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.
2. “Separated” indicates a divine commission distinct from the twelve apostles.

3. This gospel was promised before by God's prophets in the Holy Scriptures (v. 2).

B. The Nature of the Gospel of God

1. The Gospel of God is not new in origin; it was foretold in the Old Testament.
2. It was witnessed by the law and the prophets but is now manifested in full through Paul's ministry.
 - Compare Romans 3:21 – "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested."
3. The law and the prophets bore witness to Christ but did not reveal the full manifestation of God's righteousness.

C. The Subject of the Gospel of God

1. It concerns His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 2. Two great truths concerning the Son:
 - Made of the seed of David according to the flesh (His humanity).
 - Declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead (His deity).
 3. Through His resurrection, Christ is shown to possess divine power and holiness—the Spirit of Holiness.
 4. This is the good news of God: that His Son took on flesh, died, rose again, and now possesses resurrection power.
-

III. Paul's Apostleship (Romans 1:5; 15:15–19; Acts 9:15)

A. The Source of Paul's Apostleship

1. Paul received grace and apostleship directly from the risen Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 9:15–16).
2. His apostleship differs from the twelve:
 - The twelve were called during Christ's earthly ministry.
 - Paul was called from heaven by the risen, glorified Christ.
3. The risen Lord appeared to Paul, making him a witness of the resurrection.

B. The Nature of Apostleship

1. The term "apostle" means one sent with authority.
2. Paul was commissioned to minister the Gospel of God and the Gospel of Christ.
3. He was sent specifically to the Gentiles, though his message extended to all nations.
 - Romans 11:13 – "I am the apostle of the Gentiles."
4. His ministry was validated by the power of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by signs and wonders (Romans 15:19).

C. The Purpose of Paul's Apostleship

1. "For obedience to the faith among all nations for His name."
 - The "obedience of faith" refers to believing the message God has revealed.
 - The law demanded works; faith responds to revelation.
2. The nations are called to obey by faith—to believe in the faith of Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 3:22 – "The righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ."
 - Romans 6:17 – "Ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."
3. Paul's ministry glorified Christ's name among the nations.

D. Paul's Example in Ministry

1. Formerly an enemy of Christ, now a chosen vessel to bear His name.
 2. Suffered greatly for the name of Jesus, yet remained faithful to his calling.
 3. Paul's life demonstrates the transforming power of the gospel he preached.
-

IV. The Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16–17)

A. Paul's Declaration

1. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."
2. It is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."
3. The gospel reveals the righteousness of God from faith to faith; "the just shall live by faith."

B. The Nature of the Gospel's Power

1. The gospel saves from the greatest danger—God's wrath.
2. Salvation is the result of God's righteousness being revealed through faith.
3. The righteousness of God is His saving activity in Christ, not man's self-righteousness.

C. The Need for Salvation

1. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (v. 18).
 2. Man's unrighteousness provokes divine wrath; therefore, salvation must come from God Himself.
 3. We must be saved from God, by God, and to God.
 - From His wrath, by His righteousness, unto His glory.
-

V. The Unrighteousness and Departure of Man (Romans 1:18–32; 2:1–16)

A. The Historical Pattern of Man's Rebellion

1. Paul begins his argument for justification by exposing man's guilt.
2. Humanity's departure from God is not recent; it is historical and universal.
 - Begins with creation (Romans 1:20).
 - Man knew God but glorified Him not as God (v. 21).
3. The result: vanity in thought, darkened hearts, and idolatry.

B. The Wrath of God Revealed

1. The wrath of God is presently revealed in giving men over to their sin.
2. God's wrath is both future (judgment) and present (abandonment to corruption).
3. Every human being is accountable before God—there is no excuse.

C. All Men Under Sin: Jew and Gentile

1. Paul shows that both Gentiles (without law) and Jews (with law) are guilty.
 - Romans 2:12 – Those without law perish without law; those under law are judged by it.
 2. God is no respecter of persons; all stand equally condemned.
 3. The Gentile fails natural revelation; the Jew fails revealed law.
 4. The conclusion: "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10).
-

VI. The Purpose of Paul's Argument

1. To prove the need for the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel.
 2. To demonstrate that every man, regardless of background or privilege, is guilty before God.
 3. To prepare the reader for the doctrine of justification by faith in Romans 3–5.
 4. To establish the gospel as the only means of salvation for all humanity.
-

VII. Summary of the Lesson

1. The Gospel of God concerns Jesus Christ—promised, revealed, and manifested in resurrection power.
2. Paul, separated unto this gospel, was commissioned by the risen Lord to preach to all nations.
3. The Gospel of Christ reveals God's power to save and His righteousness to justify.

4. The wrath of God is revealed against man's sin, proving universal guilt and the need for divine righteousness.
 5. Romans lays the foundation for understanding salvation: justification by faith alone in Christ alone.
-

VIII. Reading and Preparation for Lesson 3

1. Continue reading Romans chapters 1–3.
 2. Observe Paul's argument regarding the wrath of God and man's guilt.
 3. Note the transition from condemnation (1:18–3:20) to justification (3:21–5:21).
 4. Reflect on how the Gospel of God reveals both the holiness and mercy of God.
-

Reflection and Discussion Questions

Before the Video

Prepare your heart and mind by considering:

1. What comes to mind when you hear “the gospel of God”? How is it different from simply “the gospel”?
 2. Why is it important to understand Paul's unique apostleship before studying the doctrine of Romans?
 3. How do you think the righteousness of God and the wrath of God are connected?
 4. What do you expect to learn about human nature from this section of Romans?
-

During the Video

As you follow along in the lesson, note key truths and answer these questions:

1. What does Paul mean when he says he was “separated unto the gospel of God”? (Romans 1:1)
2. How was the Gospel of God “promised afore by His prophets in the holy Scriptures”?
3. What two key truths about Jesus Christ are revealed in Romans 1:3–4?
 - His humanity (seed of David)
 - His divine power (declared Son of God by resurrection)
4. How does the resurrection of Christ reveal the “spirit of holiness”?
5. What is meant by the “obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5)?
6. What was unique about Paul's apostleship compared to the twelve apostles?
7. Why does Paul emphasize “for His name” in describing his mission (Acts 9:15)?

8. What is the Gospel of Christ, and why is Paul “not ashamed” of it (Romans 1:16)?
 9. What is revealed “from faith to faith” in the gospel?
 10. Why do we need the righteousness of God? What does the wrath of God reveal about us?
 11. How does Paul describe humanity’s departure from God since creation (Romans 1:20–25)?
 12. What does it mean that all are “without excuse”?
 13. How does Paul demonstrate that both Jew and Gentile are under sin and guilty before God?
-

After the Video

Reflect on what you’ve learned and how it applies:

1. How does understanding the Gospel of God deepen your appreciation for Christ’s person and work?
 2. What does Paul’s example of being “separated unto the gospel” teach about Christian purpose and calling?
 3. How should recognizing humanity’s universal guilt affect your attitude toward evangelism?
 4. In what ways does the righteousness of God bring hope amidst the reality of wrath?
 5. What does this lesson reveal about the seriousness of sin and the necessity of grace?
 6. Why is it important to see Paul’s argument in Romans 1–3 as leading toward justification by faith?
 7. How does this foundation prepare you for the next lessons in Romans?
 8. Summarize in one sentence what this lesson taught you about the gospel’s power and man’s need.
-

Suggested Reading Before Next Lesson

Romans Chapters 1–3

Pay special attention to:

- Romans 1:16–32 — The Gospel’s Power and Man’s Rebellion
- Romans 2:1–16 — God’s Righteous Judgment
- Romans 3:9–26 — The Revelation of God’s Righteousness

ROMANS COURSE | LESSON 3 QUIZ

1. What are three characteristics of the wrath of God?
 - a. Revealed, from heaven, against man's unrighteousness
 - b. Revealed, upon the earth, against man's unrighteousness
 - c. Hid in God, from heaven, against man's unrighteousness
 - d. Hid in God, upon the earth, against man's unrighteousness
2. How did God respond historically to man's unrighteousness?
 - a. He didn't really mind
 - b. He proclaimed they were wise, their affections pure, and said they had grown up
 - c. He destroyed all mankind and started entirely all over again
 - d. Gave up to uncleanness, gave up to vile affections, gave over to a reprobate mind
3. What does Paul say about God's judgment in Romans 2?
 - a. According to truth
 - b. According to deeds
 - c. No escape, no respect of persons, and by Jesus Christ
 - d. All of the above
4. What is the "man" in Romans 2 before God?
 - a. Free to sin
 - b. Excused from God's judgment
 - c. Inexcusable
 - d. Better than everyone else
5. Even though man is condemned and without excuse how is God toward man today?
 - a. Hoping none repent so He can condemn all man
 - b. Good, forbearing, and longsuffering
 - c. Hates people, quick to wrath, and quick to anger
 - d. Good, forbearing, and short to suffer

Lesson 3 – 1 a 2 d 3 d 4 c 5 b