

## **What Are You Afraid Of? #12<sup>1</sup>**

### **As bad as I sometimes feel, how can I be sure I really belong to Christ?**

#### **The Message of Romans**

#### **Romans is about the Good News, and the Good News is that God's righteousness is available to everyone.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17

**The bad news is that, no one is righteous,** "no not one." Romans 3:10

#### **The Good News in a nutshell: God's righteousness transferred by faith and faith alone.**

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26

#### **What a difference the Good News Makes in our lives!**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:1-4

#### **Ah! But the struggle continues.**

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. Romans 7:21-25

#### **The Pathway to Assurance**

**FACT** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **THE GOOD NEWS** <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING?** <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **DOES THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU? HAVE YOU BELIEVED THE GOOD NEWS?** <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. **REAL GOOD NEWS!** <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. **THE PRACTICAL RESULT, RIGHT NOW!** <sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you

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put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:1–17

**WHEN GOD’S SPIRIT IS AT WORK IN OUR LIVES, WHEN WE ARE WILLINGLY FOLLOWING HIS LEAD, THEN, NO MATTER HOW BAD WE FEEL WE WILL BE ASSURED THAT WE REALLY DO BELONG TO CHRIST.**

**ROMANS: a practical outline<sup>2</sup>**

**Introducing Paul & Jesus, 1:1-15.**

**Good News about the Good News: The Theme of Romans, 1:16-17.**

- I. **Why People Desperately Need the Good News, 1:18-3:20.**
  - A. **Because of the State of Humanity in General, 1:18-32.**
  - B. **Because of the State of the Self-Righteous in Particular, 2:1-3:8.**
  - C. **The Conclusion: We are All Under Sin’s Condemnation, 3:9-20**
- II. **What the Good News is All About, 3:21-4:25.**
  - A. **The Good News is About Faith in Jesus Christ, 3:21-31.**
  - B. **The Good News is Confirmed by the Witness of the Old Testament, 4:1-25.**
- III. **What the Good News Can Do for You, 5:1-8:39.**
  - A. **A New Relationship with God, 5:1-21.**
    1. **Peace with God, 5:1-11.**
    2. **Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, 5:12-21.**
  - B. **Freedom From the Power of Sin, 6:1-23**
    1. **A New Life, 6:1-14.**
    2. **A New Loyalty, 6:15-23.**
  - C. **Freedom from the Curse of the Law, 7:1-25.**
    1. **Freedom Illustrated and Applied, 7:1-6.**
    2. **The Curse and Its Conclusion, 7:7-25.**
  - D. **A New Lease on Life, 8:1-39.**
    1. **Life in a New Dimension, 8:1-17.**
    2. **How New Life Responds in an Imperfect World, 8:18-39.**
- IV. **Is There Good News for Israel? 9:1-11:32.**
  - A. **Paul’s Great Burden for His People, 9:1-5.**
  - B. **The Defense of God’s Plan, 9:6-11:32.**
    1. **God’s Sovereignty Remembered: A Defense of His Righteousness, 9:6-29.**
    2. **Israel’s Stumbling Block: A Failure of Faith, 9:30-10:21.**
    3. **God’s Plan: A Remnant, Engrafted Branches, and Good News for Everyone, 11:1-32.**
      - a. **A Remnant, 11:1-10.**
      - b. **Engrafted Branches, 11:11-24.**
      - c. **Good News for Everyone, 11:25-32**

(An Interlude for Worship, 11:33-36)
- V. **How to Put the Good News to Work in Your Life, 12:1-15:15.**
  - A. **Present Yourself to God, 12:1-2.**
  - B. **Use the Gifts God has Given You, 12:3-8.**
  - C. **Concentrate on Doing Good, 12:9-13:14.**
    1. **Let Love be Sincere, 12:9-16.**
    2. **Leave Vengeance to God, 12:17-21.**
    3. **Submit to Human Government as God’s Instrument of Justice, 13:1-7.**
    4. **Concentrate on Love, 13:8-10.**
    5. **Be Urgent about Goodness, 13:11-14.**
  - D. **Give One Another Room to Grow, 14:1-15:13.**
    1. **Accept Everyone Who is Accepted by God, 14:1-3.**
    2. **Leave Judgment to God, 14:4-12.**
    3. **Don’t Allow Your Liberty to Hinder Another Person’s Growth, 14:13-23.**
    4. **Consider the Model and Mission of Christ, 15:1-13.**
- VI. **Closing Words of Explanation, Exhortation and Salutation, 15:14-16:27.**

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<sup>2</sup> Prepared by Dr. Paul Null.