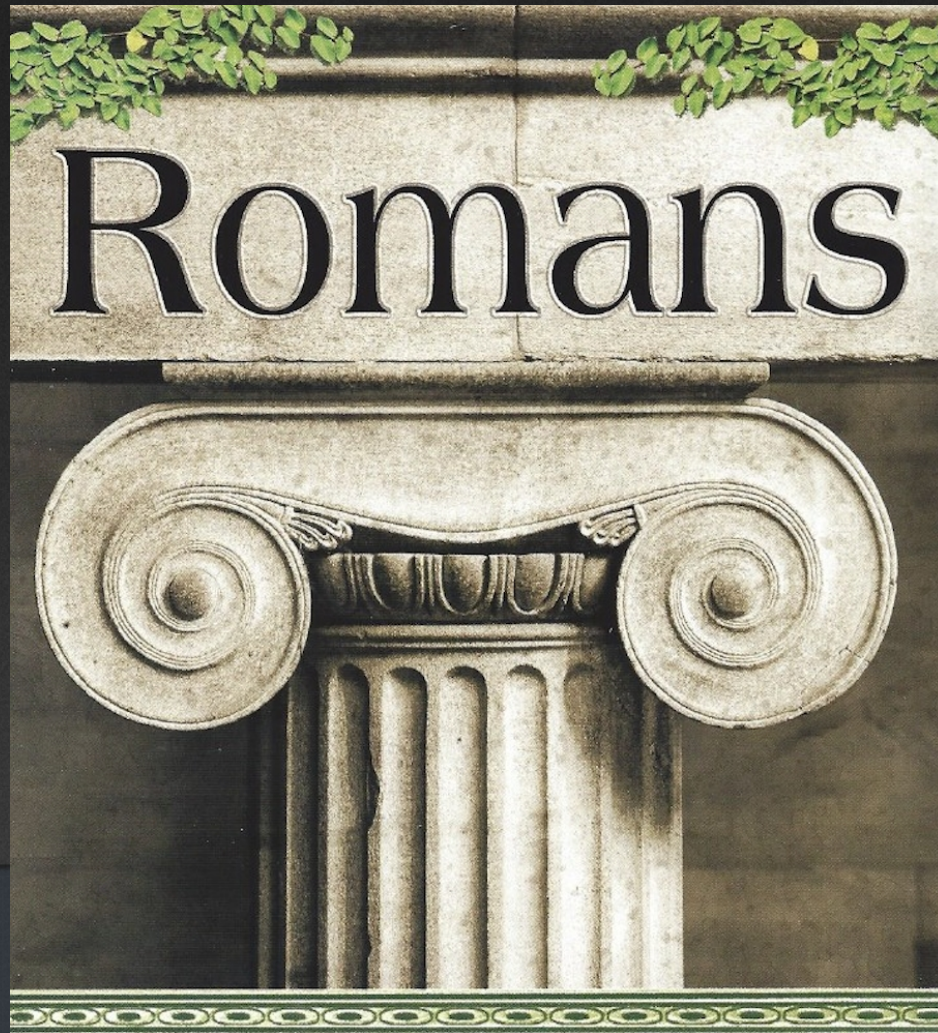


August 7–13

Romans 1–6

“The Power of God unto Salvation”



Introduction

1 Corinthians 3:2

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able

Romans 1:7-8

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints...

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Bruce R. McConkie

“Paul's epistle to the Romans is a paradoxical document. On the one hand it is one of the clearest and most profound doctrinal books in the Bible. On the other hand, it is the source of more doctrinal misunderstanding, misinterpretation, and mischief than any other Biblical book, not even excepting the Book of Revelation

“To whom was the Epistle to the Romans written?... Paul wrote it to the saints, to members of the Church, to those who already had the gift of the Holy Ghost, to those who had been born again, to those who held the priesthood and enjoyed the gifts of the Spirit. Hence he was writing to people who already knew the doctrines of salvation, and his teachings can only be understood by people who have the same background, the same knowledge, and the same experience as the original recipients of the message. Romans is a sealed book to the sectarian world; it is an open volume of inspiring gospel truth to the saints of God.”(DNTC, 2:211, 2:215)

Introduction

"To be pardoned from punishment for sin and declared guiltless"

(Guide to the Scriptures, "Justification, Justify," scriptures.lds.org)

"Being born again justifies us before the Lord"

(Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual Religion 430 and 431, pg. 49)

Introduction

C. Richard Chidester

"In order to be 'born again,' the 'natural man' must be put off so that we each can become a 'new creature'. This new creature, 'a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord' (Mosiah 3:19), is spiritual in nature as opposed to carnal or worldly.... The scriptures refer to this change in disposition, temperament, or character as a 'mighty change' in heart." ("I Have a Question," Ensign, April 1996)

Carnal Man

Rom 1:21-25,29-31

What becomes of man when he “[changes] the truth of God into a lie, and [worships] and [serves] the creature more than the Creator”?

Bernard P. Brockbank

“The apostle Paul warned the saints at Rome of the perils and evils that come to man when he loves and worships false gods and worldly creations more than he loves God... [and] who worship false man-made doctrines and love the creature more than the Creator....

“The same evil conditions that existed among many of the people in Rome at Paul’s time are abundantly with us today. Many do not want to retain God in their knowledge and... as a result they are turned over to a reprobate mind to commit sin and evil acts.

“Satan has been permitted to have power over all men who worship false gods and over all who will not hear and follow the voice of God. The Lord gave this important information about the power and influence of Satan. He said, ‘And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice’ (Moses 4:4).” (CR, Oct. 1971)

Carnal Man

Rom 5:8-11

Towards Justification

Rom 1:16-17

What must be present in our lives in order for faith to grow to the point that we can be saved?

John Taylor

“The righteousness of God was always revealed through the Gospel as specified by this Apostle.

Whenever and wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ existed, there the power of God and the knowledge of God existed; and therein at all times, and in every age, the righteousness of God was revealed through it from faith to faith....

“It is through the Gospel that ‘the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.’ It is that which holds the keys of the mysteries of the revelations of God. It is that which imparts a knowledge of the Priesthood, and it is by the Gospel that mankind can commune with God: it is that which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.” (JD, 7:360)

Towards Justification

Rom 3:23-28

According to these verses, how are we justified?

What do you think Paul means by, “man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law”?

Edward J. Brandt

"'Man is justified by faith.'... This verse is interpreted by some to indicate the sole act necessary to achieve salvation.

"By so applying these interpretations, true ordinances are ignored, compliance with the commandments to fully qualify the individual is neglected, and finally, the legitimate authority to officially represent the Lord, both to declare the message and execute the ordinances, is disregarded. These statements must be applied within the context of the doctrine of justification; and justification always presupposes righteous actions."

(Edward J. Brandt, "New Testament Backgrounds: Romans," Ensign, Jan. 1976)

Towards Justification

Rom 2:10-13

According to these verse13, what must we do to be justified?

Brigham Young

“It is not those who are hearers of the word only who are blessed and who secure to themselves the blessings of eternal life; they who secure eternal life are doers of the word as well as hearers. If we hear the word and do not perform the labors indicated by it, it will profit us nothing. To hear the word, as the Latter-day Saints do, and then to perform the labor devolving upon them, requires a great deal of wisdom; and to bring the people up to this standard much labor and instruction from the Elders is necessary.” (JD, 14:37)

Rom 4:16 JST

Therefore ye are justified of faith and works, through grace, to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed...

2 Nephi 25:23

For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

Orson Pratt

“The atonement came without any condition on the part of man. It was without... any acts of good works on the part of man.... But then, all the other gifts that we receive are through works, and by faith and works combined, and it is because of the distinction between these two separate gifts that many of the inhabitants of the earth have erred. Some of them profess to believe that they can obtain all the gifts of God without works, because of some of the sayings of the ancient apostles; while others consider that work must be combined with faith. Now both of these ideas are true when taken in their true light.” (JD, 21:303)

Towards Justification

Rom 6:1-4

What does Paul mean when we says, “we... walk in newness of life”?

LeGrand Richards

"I had a man come to my office when I was in the mission field. He said, 'When I think of who I was and what I was when the gospel found me and what I am today,' he said, 'I just can't believe that I am the same person. I do not think the same thoughts; I don't have the same habits; I don't have the same ideals in life.'

"He said, 'I have literally been born again.' And that is what Paul meant when he said, 'Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life' (Rom 6:4).

"And I knew that man walked in a newness of life." (CR, Oct. 1954)

The Fruits of Justification

Rom 5:1-5

What is the formula Paul gives that leads to hope?

Dennis E. Simmons

“We must understand that great challenges make great men. We don’t seek tribulation, but if we respond in faith, the Lord strengthens us.... The Apostle Paul learned this significant lesson and declared, after decades of dedicated missionary work, ‘We glory in tribulations ... knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed.’

“He was assured by the Savior, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness’ (2 Cor 12:9).

“Paul responded: ‘Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ... I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong’ (2 Cor 12:9–10). When Paul met his challenges the Lord’s way, his faith increased.” (CR, April 2004)

The Fruits of Justification

Rom 6:11-14,22-23

How can you keep sin from having “dominion over you”?

Todd Christofferson

“We may look to Jesus to help restore the inner unity of our soul when we have succumbed to sin and destroyed our peace.... The power of His Atonement can erase the effects of sin in us. When we repent, His atoning grace justifies and cleanses us....

“As we endeavor day by day and week by week to follow the path of Christ, our spirit asserts its preeminence, the battle within subsides, and temptations cease to trouble. There is greater and greater harmony between the spiritual and the physical until our physical bodies are transformed, in Paul’s words, from ‘instruments of unrighteousness unto sin’ to ‘instruments of righteousness unto God.’

“Becoming at one within ourselves prepares us for the greater blessing of becoming one with God and Christ.”
(CR, Oct. 2002)

Next Week:

August 14–20

Romans 7–16

“Overcome Evil with Good”

