

## August 7–13. Romans 1–6: “The Power of God unto Salvation”

### Introduction

When we read the epistles of Paul it's important to keep in mind the spiritual progress that has been made by the group he is writing to. For example, the Corinthians were struggling spiritually and he stated:

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.

This is not the case with the Romans. Their strength in the gospel was known throughout the church:

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.

A central theme of Paul to the Romans is the law of justification. Unless you are, or have been, justified (as the Romans were) the book of Romans can be confusing and misleading

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)

“it is one of the clearest and most profound doctrinal books in the Bible” -  
To whom is Romans a clear and profound book?

(to those who already had the gift of the Holy Ghost, to those who had been born again)

Conversely, who tends to misunderstand and misinterpret Romans? To whom is it a “sealed book”?

(Those who have not had the same experiences)

What does it mean to be justified?

"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)

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)

To be justified is to be reconciled by God so we can be accepted by Him.

What are some other words or phrases we use in the gospel that are synonymous with justification?

(Born again, New creature, Reconciled, Enter the gate, Made clean, Heart changed, Walk in a newness of life, Transformed)

Carnal Man

Paul discusses the state of the carnal man

Rom 1:21-25,29-31

[21] Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

[22] Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

[29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

[30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things,

disobedient to parents,  
[31] Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

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

(God also gave them up to uncleanness)

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)

But the carnal man can be change thru the atonement of Christ

Rom 5:8-11

[8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

[9] Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

[10] For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

[11] And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

If we take advantage of the atonement that Christ has given to us we can overcome the natural man, grow spiritually, and receive eternal life

Towards Justification

Thru the gospel we can gain the faith necessary to be justified

Rom 1:16-17

[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

[17] For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

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

(the gospel of Christ  
therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith  
The just shall live by faith)

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)

Developing faith in Jesus Christ is essential for justification

Rom 3:23-28

[23] For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

[24] Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

[25] Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

[26] To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

[27] Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

[28] Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

According to these verses, how are we justified?

(that he might be just... which believeth in Jesus  
a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law)

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

the law”?

The atonement was a gift. We can't work hard enough to earn it

The Law of Moses required performing many rituals. But it's not these deeds that save us.

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)

Paul also tell us the importance doing good works based on our faith

Rom 2:10-13

[10] But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

[11] For there is no respect of persons with God.

[12] For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

[13] (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

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

(the doers of the law shall 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)

Faith and works are both essential for justification

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)

We are justified by our faith and by our works. And justification comes through grace of Jesus Christ and his atonement.

If you have felt this for yourself then you know justification comes from exercising faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ. You also know that if you don't strive to be obedient to the laws and commandments you can lose the companionship of the Holy Ghost, and hence justification

Another essential step in being justified is to be baptized

Rom 6:1-4

- [1] What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- [2] God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- [3] Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
- [4] 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.

Paul states that we are “buried with [Christ] by baptism into death”, and as Christ was raised up, we will have a “newness of life”

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

(we are buried with him by baptism into death... so we also should 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

Paul outlines some of the blessing that accompany justification

Justification brings us the blessing of hope

Rom 5:1-5

[1] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

[2] By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

[3] And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

[4] And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

[5] And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

What is the formula Paul gives that leads to hope?

(tribulation worketh patience)

(patience, experience, and experience, 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)

Thru justification our spiritual-self can overcome our carnal-self

Rom 6:11-14,22-23

[11] Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[12] Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

[13] Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

[14] For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

[22] But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

[23] For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

(yield yourself unto God  
for ye are... under grace)

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)

We will review more fruits of Justification next week when we finish our study of Romans