

## **Message Guide**

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of these Message Guides will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

## Message Guide & Questions

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 1 – The Righteousness of God Scripture: Romans 1:1 - 6 & 16 - 17

1. Romans contains the most comprehensive explanation of the Gospel in the New Testament. Read Romans 1:1
2. Read and carefully consider Romans 1:16 - 17
3. You see Romans is not primarily about 'salvation' :
  - i From G \_\_\_\_\_ to I \_\_\_\_\_ = Cause
  - ii From H \_\_\_\_\_ to H \_\_\_\_\_ = Result
  - iii D \_\_\_\_\_ to L \_\_\_\_\_ = Means
  - iv But it is about unrighteousness to righteousness
4. So we need to look at two things in this study.
  1. In The Gospel, a Righteousness is R \_\_\_\_\_
  2. In The Gospel, a Righteousness is R \_\_\_\_\_
5. What things are true about God, but not true of Human beings?  
His non-transferable attributes.
  - a. His O \_\_\_\_\_ Power
  - b. His O \_\_\_\_\_ In all places
  - c. His O \_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge
  - d. I \_\_\_\_\_ Never changing
  - e. E \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ No Beginning or end
6. What are His transferable attributes?
  - a. His L \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. His J \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. His M \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. His K \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. His R \_\_\_\_\_
7. Read and consider Deuteronomy 4:8
8. Now look at Romans 1:2 .....

9. Read and consider Romans 1:17
  10. How is it possible to deliver God's righteousness?  
Read and consider the following verses.  
Romans 1:16 & 17 and Romans 3:21 – 22
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### **Final Thoughts**

We can get taken up with aspects of the gospel such as:  
- being forgiven and cleared of guilt  
- going to heaven when we die  
these are important, but **not the main point.**

These are not the reasons why Jesus invited anyone to follow Him  
or become a disciple.  
These are wonderful parts, but they are NOT the objective.

**The objective is that the Gospel of God  
reveals a righteousness from God that is by faith**

## **Leader's Message Guide & Answers**

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 1 – The Righteousness of God Scripture: Romans 1:1 - 6 & 16 - 17

1. Consider, just what IS the 'Gospel of God'?
2. Is the 'Gospel of God"
  - A means of **being forgiven**?
  - A means of **getting to heaven**?
  - A means of **receiving power to live**?

These verses reveal that the 'Gospel of God' is about revealing -  
**a righteousness from God.**

3. Romans is not primarily about 'salvation' :
  - i From **Guilt** to **Innocence** = Cause
  - ii From **Hell** to **Heaven** = Result
  - iii **Death** to **Life** = Means
  - iv But it is about unrighteousness to righteousness
4.
  1. In The Gospel, a Righteousness is **Revealed**
  2. In The Gospel, a Righteousness is **Received**
5.
  - a. His **Omnipotence** Power
  - b. His **Omnipresence** In all places
  - c. His **Omniscience** Knowledge
  - d. **Immutability** Never changing
  - e. **Eternal Nature** No Beginning or end

These attributes are unique to God and are not transferable to human beings.

6.
  - a. His **Love**
  - b. His **Justice**
  - c. His **Mercy**
  - d. His **Kindness**
  - e. His **Rightness**

These attributes He has chosen to impart to His creation and have to do with **moral character**.

If we are created in the 'image of God', **we are created to portray the truth about God in the way that we live our lives.**

7. In the Old Testament we have already learned about what is called 'Propositional Truths' about God's righteousness, His Moral Character, Justice and Mercy but .....
8. These 'propositional truths' became reality in the form of Jesus Christ.
  - i He was both human and divine.

For procuring our salvation -

- ii A man was a necessity, but only God was a Possibility.
  - iii He had to be 'man' to represent the fallen human race;  
But He had to be God, to be the sinless substitute.
9. The Gospel is not just Declaring God's righteousness - in law.  
Or Demonstrating God's righteousness - in the person of Jesus Christ.  
But it is Delivering God's righteousness - in human experience.
10. It is not enough to just believe the gospel intellectually; it has to be appropriated.  
Read John 4:14 - you have to actually **drink** the water, not just believe in it.

## Message Guide & Questions

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 2 – The Wrath of God Scripture: Romans 1:18 - 32

1. Read and consider Roman 1:18 - 32
2. What does the word 'wrath' mean? Can we soften it in some way?

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3. To try to understand better what Paul is saying we need to break things down in some headings and sub-heading, and see what scripture actually says.

#### **Heading 1 - The Provocation of God's Wrath**

On what grounds is God's wrath provoked?

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Read and consider the following:

Romans 1:18 - 19

Romans 1:21

Romans 1:25

Romans 1:28

4. **Sub-heading A - God has revealed Himself in creation.**  
Read again verse 20
5. **A 1 - There is a Cosmological argument**
6. **A 2 - A Teleological argument**
7. **A 3 - Ontological argument**
8. **A 4 - Moral argument**
9. **Heading 2 - The Expression of God's Wrath**  
**A - The immediate expression of God's wrath**  
Read and carefully consider:  
Romans 1:24  
Romans 1:26  
Romans 1:28
10. Read and carefully consider  
Romans 1: 25  
Romans 1:23
11. Read and consider carefully Romans 1:21

12. **B - The ultimate expression of God's wrath**

Read and consider Romans 2:5

**Final Thoughts**

The problem with sin is not just that it distorts my life,  
messes me up, makes me a slave, and leaves me with scars;  
the problem with sin is that

**Sin provokes the wrath of God.**

We will not understand the **Cross of Christ**  
apart from the **wrath of God.**

The Gospel involves **escaping the wrath of God**  
and being restored to **the righteousness of God.**

**All the wrath of God** is channeled to Christ  
SO THAT  
**All the righteousness of God** may be channeled to us.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### The Gospel of God from Romans

#### Part 2 – The Wrath of God

Scripture: Romans 1:18 - 32

1. This quick study may well be difficult because we fear that talking about God's **Wrath** is not consistent with God's **Goodness** or **Love**.
2. It means ***strong vengeful anger or indignation***, and no, we cannot soften the word 'wrath'.
3. Man had knowledge of God, but did not retain it.  
So the issue was not intellectual - but volitional - man's will.  
  
God had revealed Himself so emphatically in creation and in conscience that people were without excuse - and God was angry.
4. There is a 'natural revelation of God' available to anyone who will open their eyes and believe what they see. Consider this further.
5. Every effect has a cause.  
Behind this moving universe there is either a God, or it is all a fluke.
6. The world reveals intelligence, order, harmony and purpose which implies the existence of an intelligent being adequate to produce such a world.  
  
Can you imagine how remarkable it would be if a hurricane blew through a junk yard, and after everything had settled down it had formed a 747 Jumbo Jet able to fly?!

The Universe is either an accident, or it is planned.

7. This argument states that we can only mentally conceive of things that actually exist.  
  
When it comes to God, we are able to conceive the idea of absolute perfection and absolute power even though we have never seen them. We have never seen any equivalent of God, and yet we can conceive of Him, which, in itself is evidence such a God exists.  
  
Read again. Romans 1:20
8. We have an innate sense of **right and wrong**.  
The issue therefore is NOT *do we have a revelation of God, but do we follow that revelation or do we suppress it?*  
Read the following verses:  
Romans 2:18  
Romans 2:21  
Romans 2:25  
Romans 2:28  
  
**But IT IS THERE**
9. God gave them over to:

**i Sexual Impurity****10. ii Material Idolatry**

When materialism is god; sex becomes the goddess.  
History shows that when nations and peoples are materially prosperous they become spiritually indifferent and morally bankrupt. And the moral bankruptcy in turn destroys their prosperity.

**11. iii Personal Indulgence**

Wisdom, in the Bible, has little to do with intelligence, any more than foolishness has to do with lack of intelligence - it is all about **disposition**.

**The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom**

- 12.** We will either stand before God covered with the righteousness of Christ, or we will stand alone, dressed only in our own sin.

## **Message Guide & Questions**

### **The Gospel of God from Romans Part 3 – The Judgment of God Scripture: Romans 2 - 3**

1. Please read and consider Romans 2:1 - 11 & Romans 3:1 - 9
2. Let us take a look at 3 things here.

Read again and consider Romans 2:1 - 11  
What does this tell you?

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3. Read again and consider Romans 2:12 - 16
4. Take a close look at the following scriptures:  
Matthew 5:21  
Matthew 5:17  
Matthew 23:25 - 28
5. Read and consider Romans 2:16
6. Now read and consider Romans 2:17 - 24  
Paul moves his focus to those who call themselves Jews, and he reveals a unique dilemma that they share with Christians.
7. Read and consider Romans 2:21 - 24
8. Concerning the universality of sin:

We stand A \_\_\_\_\_

We stand E \_\_\_\_\_ to our innermost hearts.

We stand C \_\_\_\_\_ in our own sin.

But there is good news .....

### **Final Thoughts**

We cannot have a responsible society without laws.  
We cannot have laws without judgment.  
We cannot have judgment without punishment.

It is part of the dignity of being human that we are accountable -  
not just to each other, but accountable to God.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 3 – The Judgment of God Scripture: Romans 2 – 3

1. There is a **Day Of Judgment** to come - a **Day Of God's Wrath**

This is not something to be either blasé nor cynical about. Judgment is both **necessary** and **logical**.

2. **1. God's Judgment is Individual.**

Repeatedly the Apostle Paul uses the pronoun 'you'; not 'we', 'us' or 'them'.

We can be very good at looking at the sins of other people and become oblivious to our own sinfulness.

Paul is very clear. To everyone to whom he was speaking, and to all who would subsequently read his words. **This is about YOU.**

3. **2. God's Judgment is Internal**

We are good at examining the sins of the world, but **do not examine our own hearts.**

The sins of the world **MUST** drive us to our knees in **an examination of our own hearts** - not in condemnation of others.

We have to go **inside ourselves** - which can be painful, and takes courage.

4. If we have any hidden agendas, secret intentions or false motives - **all will be exposed**; because **it is the heart that is the real issue.**

5. Paul's statements move from:

The **Godless world out there** ....  
.... to **the people of God in here** ....  
..... to **the inside secrets of our own heart**

6. **3. God's Judgment is Impartial**

The great danger is that God's people can develop a sense of elitism - putting ourselves above other people.

7. A sense of elitism and entitlement can soften our consciences and our behaviour.

The fact is: the sins of Christians are far more significant than those of the world at large because we claim to have the resources for a higher standard; therefore our failure is more acute. The world is aware of this.

8. Concerning the universality of sin:

We stand **Accused**.  
We stand **Exposed** to our innermost hearts.  
We stand **Condemned** in our own sin.

But there is good news . . . Romans 3:21

## Message Guide & Questions

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 4 – The Cross of Christ Scripture: Romans 3:21 - 31

1. Read and consider Romans 3:21 - 31
2. The first thing we need to look at is:

#### **1. The Problem that has to be Addressed.**

There is a huge problem in the middle of this dilemma that is summed up in the most amazing **contradictory statement**: Romans 3:23 - 24

3. There are 4 things in this complex statement in these verses:
  - a. All have S \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. All you have S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ be J \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. It is a G \_\_\_ of God's G \_\_\_\_\_ through the R \_\_\_\_\_ that is in Christ Jesus
  - d. It is made possible by His blood being a P \_\_\_\_\_
4.
  - a. Who has been offended?
  - b. Who is going to address His wrath and satisfy His judgment?

5. Let us now look again at that key verse: Romans 3:21 and also 1John 2:2

#### **2. The Provision that has to be Applied**

6. What then will be the result?

Read and carefully consider the following scriptures:

Romans 4:8  
Romans 5:1  
Romans 5:10a  
Romans 6:11  
Romans 8:11

7. But this is not automatic.  
Read 1 John 1:9

**Final Thoughts**

We would do well to remember this:

**It is God who demands the cross.**

We would be happy for God to say,  
"as long as you are genuinely sorry, repent of your sins,  
and ask Me to forgive you - I will."

**But the demand for the cross comes from God Himself.**

Exodus 23:7 and Proverbs 17:15

**Today: God is addressing you.**

**Will you take the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?**

**Will you acknowledge His death as your death?**

**Will you confess to Him your sin and your need?**

**Will you accept His forgiveness,  
and the gift of His Holy Spirit to live within you?**

**He waits your answer. Will you say I WILL?**

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### The Gospel of God from Romans

#### Part 4 – The Cross of Christ

#### Scripture: Romans 3:21 - 31

1. As we have been following through with these studies, we now come to a BUT NOW .....  
This means there is another side to this story . . . something is going to change.  
Look again at the start of Romans 3:21  
Something is going to happen, and it is from God; so we immediately know this cannot be of our own doing, and it is outside of any capability of ours.
2. How can God justly treat the wicked by vindicating them?  
[Note: *When Paul speaks of 'the blood of Christ' he is speaking of the Cross*]
3. The 4 things in this complex statement in these verses are:
  - a. All have **Sinned**.
  - b. All you have **Sinned MAY** be **Justified**.
  - c. It is a **Gift** of God's **Grace** through the **Redemption** that is in Christ Jesus.
  - d. It is made possible by His blood being a **Propitiation**

It is vital that we understand this word 'propitiation'. To propitiate means:

  - i. to turn away wrath by satisfying its demands and requirements.
  - ii. to appease an offended person.
4.
  - a. Who has been offended? **It is God!**
  - b. Who is going to address His wrath and satisfy His judgment? **Christ!**

**Someone had to propitiate the wrath of God; and that someone was Jesus.**  
Read 1 John 4:10
5. It is **by faith** ... to **all who believe**  
It is by recognizing that we cannot save ourselves, and we must put our faith and trust exclusively in Jesus Christ.  
Read Romans 3:27 - 28  
It is **entirely by faith in Jesus Christ** - acknowledging that **only He** can save us.
6. We are:
 

i	forgiven	4:8
ii	our sins are covered	4:8
iii	we have peace with God	5:1
iv	we are reconciled to Him	5:10a
v	we are dead to sin	6:11
vi	there is now no condemnation.	8:1

We have been brought from enmity to friendship - Ephesians 1:6
7. We have to do something. Read and consider Acts 2:37 - 39  
Is God calling **you** today?  
You have to repent, confess, believe and surrender to Him.

## Message Guide & Questions

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 5 – The Experience of Justification by Faith Scripture: Romans 4:1 - 5 & 16 - 25

1. Read Romans 4:1 - 5 & 16 - 25
2. On previous studies we have already looked at:  
The R \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
The W \_\_\_\_\_ of God  
and then the J \_\_\_\_\_ of God
3. So through Jesus Christ we have been justified.  
Justice has been satisfied.  
But this is more than just a legal transaction - it has to become experiential.  
And it only becomes experiential **by faith**.  
So we need to look at two aspects, the first of which is:
  1. **Righteousness as a Legal Transaction**  
Read Romans 4:1 - 5
4. **2. Righteousness as a Living Transformation**  
Read Romans 4:17 - 25
5. Abraham believed in the ability of God to fulfill His promises, but what kind of God was he trusting? What does verse 17 say?  

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6. When God speaks of the future, He isn't guessing, **He knows it!**  
So what do we do when God speaks of something that is still outside of our experience?  

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7. Look again at verses 21 & 22

**Final Thoughts**

What God will do for us is not **earned**, nor is it **deserved**,  
but it is to be **received as a gift**.  
This is our experience of being justified and made righteous before God.

Salvation is not related to what we can earn or what we deserve.  
Justification is not God's response to our self-righteousness,  
our zeal, goodness or religiosity.  
**It is a gift that has to be received by faith.**

**For everyone here reading this  
God is as big as you let Him be,**

There may be many different needs, but:

Is the God you trust - the God who gives life to the dead/  
Is the God you trust - the God who call things that are not as though they were?  
Is the God you trust - the God who has the power to do what He has promised?

**If your faith is in Him; then trust Him  
Allow Him to work through you as only He can.**

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### The Gospel of God from Romans

#### Part 5 – The Experience of Justification by Faith

#### Scripture: Romans 4:1 - 5 & 16 - 25

1. To any first time reader of the New Testament it will become very evident that a key component to this message is that **we need to exercise faith.**

Read Hebrews 11:6, and Romans 14:23

But what is that? What does it mean? How does it operate?

2. On previous studies we have already looked at:

The **Righteousness** of God.

The **Wrath** of God

and then the **Judgment** of God.

And then read Romans 3:25 how Jesus Christ was the 'propitiation' to satisfy the justice of God. as our substitute on the cross so that He might offer forgiveness and declare us to be justified

3. Using Abraham as an example in Romans 4:3 Paul presents this as **an instantaneous change of position.**

Abraham believed God, and it was done. As simple as that.

However Abraham did not actually see the promised son for many years, but he believed in God's ability to deliver on His promise.

However read:

- v. 10 - 12     Abrahams justification was not because of his circumcision.
- v. 13 - 15     Not because Abraham kept the law.
- v. 16           The promise comes **by faith** so that it may be **by grace** that **God initiates** it; and it is **by faith** that we **receive it.**

This is our standing before God as a legal transaction, purchased and made possible by the Cross of Christ. But our justification is not just a Legal Transaction.

4. As mentioned before, Abraham's justification took place **in a moment**, but his **experience of justification took a lot of living out.**

5. So now see what verse 19 says.

What kind of God was Abraham trusting? - A God who is the antithesis to my trouble and need. Abraham was trusting in a God who gives life to the dead.

6. We wait patiently. As in the following verses

4:18           Against all hope, we believe.

4:19           Without weakening.

4:20           Do not waver.

4:21           We are fully persuaded that God has the ability.

**That is the issue!**

**Being fully persuaded that God has the ability.**

7. It was credited to him as righteousness because he was fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He had promised - NOT because God had the power to do what Abraham wanted.

## Message Guide & Questions

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 6 – The Fruit of Justification Scripture: Romans 5:1 - 11

1. Read and consider Roman 5:1 - 11  
And read and consider Luke 14
2. Look at the following verses in Chapter 5. What is the recurring key word.  
Romans 5:2b; Romans 5:3; Romans 5:11

3. Let us take a closer look at these 3 reasons to rejoice.  
**1. Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God** - Romans 5:2

Read and consider Romans 5:1 - 2

4. **2. We rejoice in our sufferings** - Romans 5:3  
Read and consider Philippians 3:10

5. So why is suffering a part of our Christian experience?

a. **Suffering is a creative force.** - v.3

6. b. **Suffering matures** - Romans 5:3 - 4

7. 

Because of time Charles was not able to include this in his sermon, but as it was part of his original notes we are including here in this study because it is important.
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c. **Suffering softens** - v. 5

### Final Thoughts

#### Consider the full cycle of our salvation:

We have been justified through faith

We have peace with God

We have gained access by faith into His grace

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God

#### Don't stop early in the process.

*Are you rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God -  
not passive in your Christian life, but actively growing?*

*Are you rejoicing in suffering -  
not bemoaning it, but embracing it as a means  
of making you more tender, patient and fruitful?*

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### The Gospel of God from Romans Part 6 – The Fruit of Justification Scripture: Romans 5:1 - 11

1. Laying a foundation is not the same as constructing a building.  
If we start something we have to go on and develop it.  
In Luke 14 Jesus is actually talking about discipleship and the necessity of growth.  
This growth is not accidental or by osmosis, but it is deliberate and intentional.
2. We '**Rejoice**'  
There are consequences and growth on the basis of our justification.  
And this causes us to:       "rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."  
  "rejoice in our sufferings."  
  'rejoice in God through Jesus Christ.'
3. There is an escalating list of privileges that come from being justified.
  - i        "*..... we have peace **with** God through our Lord Jesus Christ*"  
Peace **with** God is nothing to do with how we **feel**, but rather has everything to do with our **position** before God. [*Not to be confused with 'the peace of God' which has everything to do with how we feel because it has to do with the measure in which we entrust our situation to God*]
  - ii       "*..... through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*"  
Not only do we have peace with God, but now we have access to God which opens to us rich possibilities of our relationship with God.
  - iii      "*..... and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God*"  
God created us to be a physical expression of His own character, but if the essence of our sin is that we '*fall short of the glory of God*', how can this 'hope of glory' be in us?  
  
Read and carefully consider: Colossians 1:27 and Romans 8:30  
  
It is a process continuing through the Christian life.
4. There is a popular theology today that sees no value in suffering, and looks for health and wealth as the blessing of God; but this is contrary to what Paul taught; that we should '*rejoice in our sufferings*'. Our sufferings are our friends - not our enemies.
5. a. v.3 "... we know that suffering produces ...."  
Yes, suffering is a creative force in our lives.  
The New Testament understanding of suffering is something that is not avoided, but rather harnessed.  
We need to recognize that God does deep things in people's sufferings.  
We learn a lot more from tears than from laughter.
6. If 'suffering produces', then what does it produce?  
Well, suffering is either a positive creative force for good, or it is a negative

destructive force producing bitterness and anger.

Paul tells us that our suffering produces perseverance, which produces character, which produces hope. All good things.

7. We see some people, battered by circumstances, who become bitter, while others become beautiful.

Suffering can draw out the best in us, or it can draw out the worst.

It can draw us **to God** - and soften us.

Or it can drive us **from God** - and harden us.

What is important is not so much the nature of our suffering, but rather, our disposition towards it.