

## ESV Outline:

Romans 1:8–15	Paul’s Longing to Visit Rome
Romans 1:16–15	The Righteous Shall Live <b>by Faith</b>
Romans 1:18–32	God’s Wrath on Unrighteousness
Romans 2:1–11	God’s Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:12–29	God’s Judgment and the Law
Romans 3:1–8	God’s Righteousness Upheld
Romans 3:9–20	<u>No One</u> Is Righteous
Romans 3:21–31	The Righteousness of God Through Faith
Romans 4:1–12	<b>Abraham</b> Justified <b>by Faith</b>
Romans 4:13–25	<b>The Promise</b> Realized <b>Through Faith</b>
Romans 5:1–11	Peace with God <b>Through Faith</b>
Romans 5:12–21	Death in Adam, Life in Christ
Romans 6:1–14	Dead to Sin, Alive to God ( <b>Next Week</b> )
Romans 6:15–23	Slaves to Righteousness
Romans 7:1–6	Released from the Law
Romans 7:7–25	The Law and Sin
Romans 8:1–11	Life in the Spirit
Romans 8:12–17	Heirs with Christ
Romans 8:18–30	Future Glory
Romans 8:31–39	God’s Everlasting Love
Romans 9:1–29	God’s Sovereign Choice
Romans 9:30–10:4	Israel’s Unbelief
Romans 10:5–21	The Message of Salvation to All
Romans 11:1–10	The Remnant of Israel
Romans 11:11–24	Gentiles Grafted In
Romans 11:25–36	The Mystery of Israel’s Salvation
Romans 12:1–2	A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:3–8	Gifts of Grace
Romans 12:9–21	Marks of the True Christian
Romans 13:1–7	Submission to the Authorities
Romans 13:8–14	Fulfilling the Law Through Love
Romans 14:1–12	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Romans 14:13–23	Do Not Cause Another to Stumble
Romans 15:1–7	The Example of Christ
Romans 15:8–13	Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles
Romans 15:14–21	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles
Romans 15:22–33	Paul’s Plan to Visit Rome
Romans 16:1–16	Personal Greetings
Romans 16:17–23	Final Instructions and Greetings
Romans 16:25–27	Doxology

## We Don’t Save this Wicked Generation...

### Psalm 11:3–5

<sup>3</sup> if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” <sup>4</sup> The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. <sup>5</sup> The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

**God Does!**

## God’s Great Salvation Starts Here

### Romans 5:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now *the law* came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, **grace abounded all the more**, <sup>21</sup> so that, ***as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness*** leading to **eternal life through Jesus Christ** our Lord.

### God’s Grace Saves Us through Faith in Jesus Christ: (Cf. Rom. 9:16)

- **Jesus:** The “Ground” of our Salvation
- **The Holy Spirit:** Applies the Word
- **Faith:** The Only “Instrument” of Application



## But there is More!

God’s grace **also** produces obedience in his people!

**the French skeptic Voltaire:** “God will forgive; that is his ‘business’ [métier].”

**W. H. Auden:** “I like committing crimes. God likes forgiving them. Really the world is admirably arranged.”<sup>i</sup>

### I. Does Grace Make Sinning/Obedience Irrelevant? (1-2)

**6** What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?** (the danger of “cheap grace” is real)

<sup>2</sup> **By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?**

### II. Life Giving Grace Frees & Empowers! (3-10)

#### A. We Have Been Baptized into Jesus (3-4)

1. This passage assumes a right understanding of baptism

- ✓ **Baptism** is of **secondary importance to Faith**  
 (Context in Rom.; cf. Gal. 2:19–20; Eph. 2:5–6)

<sup>i</sup> Moo, D. J. (1996). *The Epistle to the Romans* (p. 356). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid. (p. 366).

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid. (p. 370).

- ✓ Baptism should be thought of as part of the entire “conversion-initiation experience” (D. Moo)

“...the suggestion of J. Dunn is helpful. He points out that the early church conceived of faith, the gift of the Spirit, and water baptism as components of one unified experience, which he calls “conversion-initiation.” Just as faith is always assumed to lead to baptism, so baptism always assumes faith for its validity.<sup>68</sup> In vv. 3–4, then, we can assume that baptism stands for the whole **conversion-initiation** experience, presupposing faith and the gift of the Spirit.” (bold mine) <sup>ii</sup>

- ✓ Baptism is a public statement of faith (oath-sign)

## 2. Why mention baptism here?

<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.

## B. United with the Pattern of Christ’s Death & Resurrection (5-10)

<sup>5</sup> For if we *have been united with him in a death like his* (lit. “the form of his death”<sup>iii</sup>), we *shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his* (lit. “the form of his resurrection”<sup>iii</sup>).

### 1. Set Free from Sin by Christ’s Death (Past)

<sup>6</sup> We know that *our old self* was crucified *with him* in order that *the body of sin* might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be *enslaved to sin*. <sup>7</sup> For one who *has died* has been set free (*justified*) from sin. (Cf. v. 1)

### 2. We will also Live with Jesus (Past to Future)

<sup>8</sup> Now *if we have died with Christ*, we believe that *we will also live with him*. <sup>9</sup> We know that *Christ, being raised from the dead*, will never die again; *death no longer has dominion over him*. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, *but the life he lives he lives to God*.

(What future? Glorification or Sanctification?)

## Commands Built on Indicatives

### I. Command: **Think** Accurately about Yourself (11)


<sup>11</sup> So you also must *consider yourselves* dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Picture: Ro. 11 - Grafted into Olive Tree)

### II. Command to **Live** in Service to God (12-13)

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin *therefore reign* in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present *your members* to sin as *instruments* (weapons) for unrighteousness,

*but present yourselves to God* as those who have been brought from death to life, *and your members to God* as *instruments* (weapons) for righteousness.

### III. A Secure Promise for the Future (14)

<sup>14</sup> For sin *will* have no dominion over you, since you *are not under law but under grace*. 

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How does this week’s text encourage you in your effort to be obedient this week? Does it help to remove the guilt and fear we often struggle with?
2. Does this teaching highlight any ways you might still be tempted to trust in yourself?
3. How does this text encourage you to rethink your identity?
4. How can the wrong motives for obedience trip us up?
5. Where does true obedience in the life of a Christian come from? How does God produce these good works in us?