



LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Full-size and ready-to-print handouts, coloring pages, memory verse tokens and posters for this volume are available online. Visit shop.biblevisuals.org and search for S1023 for ready-to-print PDF downloads.

Lesson 1

CHRISTIAN SACRIFICE

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The theme of Romans is the righteousness of God. Paul shows that God is righteous in condemning sinners. He is righteous in sanctifying those who trust in His Son. He is righteous in His dealings with Israel in the past, present and future. In the closing chapters of the book, the Apostle Paul turns to the subject of everyday living. These chapters are extremely practical. From them we learn that God's righteousness produces righteousness in the life of the Christian, enabling him/her to live the Christian life.

Although the lessons in this volume may be easy to understand and perhaps easy to teach, they may also prove to be the most difficult to practice. Pray that the truths contained in these final chapters of Romans may become a vital part of your own Christian experience.

There is an old proverb that says:

I hear . . . I forget.

I see . . . I remember.

I do . . . I understand.

We use visuals like those in this book to help our students remember the lesson. We encourage them to make notebooks so that by writing (and perhaps by drawing simple illustrations), your class members will better retain what has been taught. They will understand the lessons when they practice the things they learn. So we urge you to have class discussions at the end of each lesson, determining particular things which can be done to live out the lesson. Begin lessons 2, 3, and 4 by letting each one tell how he/she practiced the preceding lesson.

Scripture to be studied: Romans 12; Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-19

The aim of the lesson: To teach that God wants Christians to give themselves completely to Him to do whatever He chooses.

What your students should know: Christians are to be living sacrifices—living lives that please God.

What your students should feel: A desire to live for God, doing whatever pleases Him.

What your students should do: Promise God they will do one thing He would have them do this week. Pray, asking God for help to do what they have promised.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Abraham receives a love gift from God (Genesis 21:1-8).
2. God asks Abraham for a sacrificial gift (Genesis 22:1-8).
3. God tests Abraham by asking for his son (Genesis 22:9-19).
4. All believers can give themselves to God (Romans 12:1-2).

The verse to be memorized:

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
(Romans 14:12)

THE LESSON

In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul taught many things. He explained that all have sinned and that God

condemns sin. He said that because of God's righteousness He gave His own Son, the Lord Jesus, to die for sinners. Carefully Paul explained that those who believe in Christ are justified—declared righteous by God—the moment they place their trust in Him. Paul continued by showing that all believers in the Lord Jesus are sanctified—set apart by God for His own purpose. Because this is so, Christians are to live pure, separated lives that bring glory, and not shame, to God's name.

Do you remember what it was that filled Paul with sorrow? It was the knowledge that multitudes of Jews had not placed their trust in the Lord Jesus. Many refused to listen to the message of salvation. Therefore they would be forever separated from God. The apostle wrote of God's wonderful plan for the nation Israel: someday many Israelites will claim Christ as Saviour and King, even though they will have to endure much suffering before that time. God, the righteous One, loves the Jews.

Having taught so much, Paul probably asked himself, "What words of instruction shall I send to these Christians? What does God want me to tell them?" Then continuing, he wrote, "Dear Christian brothers, I ask you to give your bodies as living sacrifices to God. He is pleased with this kind of sacrifice."

What did he mean? Are Christians to allow their bodies to be sacrificed in the same way that animals were sacrificed? Oh, no. God doesn't require this. But He does want Christians to give themselves completely to Him, to be used in whatever way He chooses. They are to give up their own plans for their lives.