



POWER FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING

A STUDY OF ROMANS

#5: THE NEED FOR CHANGE (PART 2)—2:17-29

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I. ROMANS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST “BEFORE AND AFTER” STORIES

Before: I am guilty of sin

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.
Romans 3:23 (CEV)

After: I am forgiven of sin

But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life’s blood, so that by faith in him we could come to God. And God did this to show that in the past he was right to be patient and forgive sinners. This also shows that God is right when he accepts people who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:24-26 (CEV)

Before: I am a slave to sin

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 7:21-25 (NLT)

After: I am freed from the control of sin and death

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Romans 8:1-2 (NLT)

II. THE PROBLEM OF HUMANITY – OUR SIN HAS SEPARATED US FROM GOD.

1. God’s transcendent nature cannot tolerate sin.

O LORD, are you not from everlasting?...Your eyes are too pure to look on evil...
Habakkuk 1:12a-13a (NIV)

2. I am a sinner

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

Romans 3:23 (CEV)

But your sins have separated you from your God. They have caused him to turn his face away from you.

Isaiah 59:2 (NCV)

3. God provided the solution—Jesus Christ

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

Romans 5:6-10 (NLT)

III. THE NEED FOR CHANGE—ROMANS 2:1-29

Because of...

1. God's perfect judgment (v.1-16)

- God judges fairly (v.1-4)
- God judges impartially (v.5-11)
- God judges comprehensively (v.12-16)

2. God's call to have a right heart (v.17-29)

- Recognize the danger of overconfidence (v.17-24)
- Refuse to trust the wrong things (v.25-27)
- Rely on God's Spirit to transform my heart (v.28-29)