1. Paul wrote the book of Romans as a letter to the Christians in Rome.

   A. These Roman believers were mostly Gentiles who had received the Gospel, been born again, and were committed to following the Lord.

   B. However, they were being troubled by Jewish believers who were trying to mix the Old Testament Law with Christianity.

2. Although written for the same purpose as Romans, Paul’s letter to the Galatians contains several strong, harsh rebukes against legalism (Gal. 1:6-9, 3:1, and 5:3-4).

   A. He told them, “If you are trusting in such things as circumcision for your salvation [Gal. 5:3], you have fallen from grace.”

      “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4).

   B. Written specifically to a religious Jewish mindset, the book of Hebrews argues faith in the finished work of Christ using Jewish tradition (the Old Testament patriarchs, tabernacle, priesthood, sacrificial systems, among others) and showing how Jesus perfectly fulfilled it all.

   C. Romans presents these same truths, but from more of a doctrinal standpoint.

3. Romans expounds the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jewish and Gentile believers—it’s written to everyone!

   A. Anybody who truly understands and embraces its message will be forever changed in the way they relate to God.

   B. The revelation of God’s grace contained in Romans delivers believers from a performance mentality—which bases relationship with God on their own efforts—to a total trust and reliance upon the Lord, His goodness, and His grace.

   C. Salvation is all about God’s faithfulness—not ours!

   D. This revelation is foundational for maintaining a close relationship with God.

4. Paul opened the letter with salutations and greetings, commended the believers in Rome for how their faith was being spoken of throughout the world, expressed his desire to visit them, and then summarized the message of the entire book:
“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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:16-17).

A. “Gospel” not only means “good news” but “nearly-too-good-to-be-true news.”

B. The Gospel is good news—not bad news!

C. Many things have been promoted as “the Gospel” that aren’t good news.

5. The Gospel is God’s free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

   “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

   A. It’s a gift—all you must do is believe and receive!

   B. Believe what Jesus has done through His death, burial, and resurrection, and receive the cleansing from all your sin and the freedom and liberty it brings.

6. The Gospel is directly related to the grace of God.

   A. This causes many problems for religious people.

      i. Religion—false religion, man’s concepts, not God-ordained salvation—teaches that right standing with God and blessings come as a result of our own goodness and works.

      ii. If you’re trying to be justified by anything other than faith in Christ, then you aren’t believing the true Gospel!

   B. The Gospel isn’t only just belief that there is salvation, but it’s also the specific method by which this salvation is obtained.

   “None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24)

      i. “Gospel” and “grace” are terms that can be used interchangeably.

      ii. The good news—or Gospel—is the grace of God.

   “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel” (Gal. 1:6).

7. Grace is what sets true Christianity apart from every other religion in the world.
A. Religion refuses to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation—right relationship with God.
   
   i. Every false religion—even religious Christianity—puts the burden of salvation upon the individual.
   
   ii. In other words, “salvation” is based upon your performance.

B. True Christianity is the only faith on the face of the earth that has a Savior.

8. Many people around the world who have embraced “Christianity” have never heard the true Gospel preached concerning God’s goodness and grace.

   A. They’re simply substituting “Christian” things to do instead of Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or some other religion’s things to do.

   B. To many people, Christianity is nothing but a different set of rules, doctrines, a regulations whereby they must earn their way to God.

   C. That’s not the true Gospel—and it’s exactly what the book of Romans confronts.

Good News!
LESSON 1 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What do Galatians 1:6-9, 3:1, and 5:3-4 all have in common?

2. In Galatians 1:6, what word did Paul use to express the surprise, amazement, and astonishment he felt toward these believers who were falling so soon into legalism?

3. Who or what were they being removed from?

4. According to this verse, what other word can be used interchangeably with “Gospel”?

5. In Galatians 1:7, these people who were troubling the Galatian believers were doing what to the Gospel of Christ?

6. In Galatians 1:8-9, what did Paul repeat twice?

7. Why did Paul say the same thing two verses in a row?

8. What two words did Paul employ in Galatians 3:1 to describe these Galatians?

9. Who had been evidently set forth as crucified before them?

10. According to Galatians 5:3-4, how much effect does Christ have on those who are seeking to be justified—made righteous—by the Law?
   A. Full effect.
   B. Partial effect.
   C. No effect.

11. These people are fallen from what?

12. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned and come short of God’s glory?
   A. All.
   B. Some.
   C. Everyone else but me.

13. In Romans 1:16-17, what was Paul not ashamed of?

14. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto what for whom?

15. Where is the righteousness of God revealed?

16. The just shall live by what?
17. According to Romans 2:4, what leads us to repentance?
   A. God’s wrath.
   B. God’s justice.
   C. God’s goodness.
   D. God’s holiness.

18. Romans 6:23 reveals the wages of sin to be what?

19. The gift of God is what?

20. Is eternal life a wage or a gift?

21. According to Romans 4:5, do we work for righteousness?

22. How, then, are we justified—made righteous?

23. In Acts 20:24, what did Paul testify of?
“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the
grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some
that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an
angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have
preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again,
If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let
him be accursed” (Gal. 1:6-9)

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the
truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified
among you?” (Gal. 3:1).

“For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to
do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are
justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:3-4).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as
it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:16-17).

“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and
longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to
repentance?” (Rom. 2:4).

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the
ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (Rom. 4:5).

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto
myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I
have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts
20:24).