

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share with one another what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM ROMANS 1:1 – 3:31.

(S) **POINT 1. SHARING FROM ROMANS 1:1 – 3:31**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Romans 1:1 – 3:31. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

**Sharing quiet times from Romans 1.**

(T) I want to share from Romans 1:16 about the gospel of salvation. Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." The word "gospel" means "good news". The gospel does not consist in what I must do to please God, but consists of what God in Christ has done for me! "Salvation is not just a single event. *Salvation is a process that begins when someone believes in Jesus Christ and after that continues right through his life until he meets Christ face to face!*

Salvation can be expressed in negative and in positive terms. Negatively I am rescued from sin and positively I am brought into a state of salvation. First. Salvation means that I am rescued from *the guilt* of sin and brought in *the state of righteousness*. Second. I am rescued from *the pollution* of sin and brought into *the state of holiness*. Third. I am rescued from *the slavery* of sin and brought into *the state of freedom*. Fourth. I am rescued from *the punishment* of sin and brought into *the state of blessing*. The punishment consists of the alienation from God, the wrath of God and the punishment of everlasting death. The blessing, on the other hand, consists of fellowship with God, the love of God and the experience of everlasting life!

(S) I want to share from Romans 1:23-24 about God abandoning people. Romans 1:23-24 says, "They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore *God gave them over* in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another." First. What strikes me is *the close connection between idolatry and immorality*. The letter to the Romans was written in the city of Corinth. Corinth was a city notorious for sexual immorality. But it also had very many temples for idols. More than 1000 priestesses served in these temples and their task was to promote lust and prostitution. One of the consequences of sexual immorality is that *people change their concept of God in order to justify their sinful action*. Sexual immorality is the cause why many people backslide in their faith in the God who revealed himself in the Bible.

Second. What strikes me is that *God does not have unlimited patience with people who sin deliberately*. God is patient. When people continually did evil, God waited patiently for them to repent. In 2 Peter 3:9 is written, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." In Revelation 2, the woman Jezebel, who called herself a prophetess, was given time to repent from her immorality. But because she was unwilling, God finally brought suffering upon her. When God's patience is not answered by repentance, then God's wrath is poured out and *he actively abandons people to the consequences of their sin*. The Bible says, "God gave them over to sexual impurity". God abandoned them to slavery to their sexual immorality. The Bible warns that physical passion can reach a point where it is ungovernable. When people continue to sin and refuse to repent, then God abandons them to their sin. When people harden themselves against God, then God finally hardens their hearts. It is God's rule that a sinner finally reaps what he continually sows.

(T) I want to share the teaching of the Bible on homosexuality? In Romans chapter 1, *a person's sexual orientation or sexual inclination, whether heterosexual or homosexual, is not the point at issue. What does matter is what a person does with his sexuality*. According to the Bible's plain teaching, sexual intercourse was intended only between a husband with his own wife. It was never intended for anyone else! All sexual expression outside the marriage of one man with one wife is contrary to God's intention and contrary to God's expressed will. Jesus says in Matthew 19:4-5, "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.'" And Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." "Sexual immorality" means "every kind of sex before marriage" and "adultery" means "every kind of sex outside marriage". Thus the Bible forbids

every form of sex outside the marriage bond. The marriage bond is a covenant between one man and one woman before God and their family and friends as their witnesses.

In the Old Testament law, in Leviticus 20:13, the death penalty was pronounced on wilful homosexuality. In Deuteronomy 23:17-18, temple prostitution is forbidden. In 1 Kings 14:24, the male shrine-prostitution is called a detestable practice in God's eyes. In Isaiah 3:9, people who parade their sin like Sodom, that is practice sodomy, bring disaster upon themselves. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 is written, "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ... will inherit the kingdom of God." Only when such people repent from their sin and are justified by Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, will they inherit the kingdom of God. In Jude 7 we read, "Sodom and Gomorra and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire."

### **Sharing quiet times from Romans 2.**

(S) I want to share from Romans 2:6-7 about which people receive eternal life. Romans 2:6-7 says, "God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life." Does this mean that the way to gain eternal life is by doing good works? No. People who say 'Yes' draw their conclusion without reading the context. The individual teachings in the Bible must always be understood in the context of the chapter and the book in the Bible as well as in the context of the whole Bible. The very next verse, Romans 2:7, says, "But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger." Actually, the smallest context would be Romans 2:5-11. If it was true that people receive eternal life by doing any kind of good works, then Christ's work of salvation is in vain and your faith is also in vain. However, *the good works* in verse 7 is not just any kind of good works. Romans 2:8 shows that *the good works* here include "accepting the truth". And what is the truth for Paul? In Romans 1:25 it is "the truth about the living God". In Ephesians 4:21 it is "the truth about Jesus Christ". In Galatians 2:5 it is "the truth of the gospel". And in 2 Timothy 2:15 it is "the truth of the Bible". Thus, *in order to receive eternal life, a person must accept the truth of the gospel and the truth of the whole Bible, which includes the truth about God and the truth about Jesus Christ*. Moreover, in Ephesians 2:8-9 Paul clearly teaches that we are not saved by good works, but by God's grace and faith.

(T) I want to share from Romans 2:12 about people who have never heard the truth. Romans 2:12 says, "All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law." People who did not have the law, that is, people who did not have the revelation of God in the Old Testament as well as people who have never heard the gospel of the New Testament will not be saved. They will perish. Why will they perish if they were ignorant? Is it not unfair that those who are ignorant should perish? The Bible says that *no one is completely ignorant*. Romans 2:15 says, "The Gentiles show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them." When God created man in his own image, he wrote his moral commandments on the heart of every human being. People, who have never heard the Ten Commandments, know that "to kill" is wrong and "to steal" is wrong, etc. They know this, because God has written knowledge of his will on every heart and has made the human conscience like an advocate who uses the law of the heart to tell people when they do wrong and when they do right. Therefore, the Bible says that *the ignorance of people is never absolute!* All people know some of the truths of the living God and are responsible to act according to that truth. Therefore, people who do not have the revelation of the Old and New Testaments, have no excuse for their sin, because they do have God's moral law written on their hearts.

### **Sharing quiet times from Romans 3.**

(S) I want to share from Romans 3:19-22 about the law. God's "law" is the requirement or demand of the 100% holy and righteous God that all people live 100% perfect lives and that all sin must be 100% punished. In the Old Testament period, God's law or standard was expressed in three kinds of laws. First, *The ceremonial laws* consisted of laws about the temple, the priests, the sacrifices and religious festivals. The purpose of the ceremonial law was to show people how they should approach the holy God. These laws were fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and consequently cancelled and abrogated in the New Testament period. Second, *The civil laws* consisted of laws about the legal and penal system of the nation state of Israel. The purpose of the civil law was to show Israel how to function as a nation-state. These laws were replaced at the first coming of Jesus Christ by everything that Jesus Christ taught about the kingdom of God. God's people no longer belong to one nation-state, but to the kingdom of God that cuts across every nation and state in this present world. Third, *The moral laws* consisted of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. The purpose of the moral law is still to show God's people how they should live as God's people in this world. Never in history could people anywhere in the world earn their own righteousness by keeping the law. There is not a single person that has never sinned and there is not a single person that has always done what is right in God's eyes. Thus, except Jesus Christ, there has never been a single 100% perfect person in the history of this world! Both the Law and Prophets in the Old Testament and the Gospels and Letters in the New Testament proclaim that

people can only be 100% justified by what God does through Jesus Christ! When any person in the world believes that Jesus Christ was punished in his place for 100% of his sins and believes that Jesus Christ graciously gives 100% of his righteousness to the believer, then that believer is saved! 2 Corinthians 5:21 says that God made the sinless Jesus Christ take our place of sin so that we sinners might graciously receive his 100% righteousness!

(T) I want to share about the functions of the moral law. First. *The moral law is like a bridle that restrains sinners and the progress of sin in society.* In 1 Timothy 1:9-11 we read, “We also know that law is made not for good men but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers - and for whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.” Second. *It is like a mirror that shows us our sins.* In Romans 3:20 we read, “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.” Third. *It is like a magnifying glass that shows us how big and ugly our sins are.* In Romans 5:20 we read, “The law was added so that the trespass might increase.” Fourth. *It is like a judge that condemns us to be guilty and holds us accountable to God.* In Romans 3:19 we read, “We know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.” Fifth. *It is like a schoolteacher that shows us our need of Jesus Christ and his righteousness in order to be justified by God.* In Galatians 3:24 we read, “So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”

(S) I like to share from Romans 3:23-26 about the meaning of justification, redemption and atonement. Romans 3:23-26 says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - he did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” First. *Sin causes us to miss the glory of God.* Originally we were created in God’s image and possessed the holiness, love and righteousness of God. But through our sins we have *lost this conformity to God’s image*. Moreover, we have *lost God’s approval* of us and are condemned to live forever outside the presence of God unless we are saved. Second. *Because of what Christ did, we are freely justified.* This means that God *graciously gives* us the righteousness of Christ and *sovereignly declares* us righteous in his presence. This is a verdict that God gives once for all time! Third. *Christ’s death on the cross is described as a redemption.* The word *redemption* originally meant “the deliverance of a person that was captured by paying a ransom”. In the Bible the word *redemption* simply means deliverance of the guilt, the punishment and the power of sin. Fourth. *Christ’s death on the cross is also described as a sacrifice of atonement.* The word *sacrifice of atonement* means that Christ’s self-sacrifice on the cross was a sacrifice that removed the holy and righteous wrath of God against our sin so that the mercy, grace and love of God may overflow our lives! Fifth. *Christ’s death on the cross finally brought to an end the Old Testament period of time, during which God overlooked sins and let them go unpunished.* God did not leave the sins that were committed before the first coming of Jesus Christ unpunished. God loaded all the sins of people that were committed before the time of Jesus as well as all the sins of people that were committed after the time of Jesus on Jesus Christ! In this way God demonstrated that he is forever *a holy and just God that must punish sin and actually punished sin*. The merits of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross reach backwards to the beginning of mankind as well as forward to the end of human history. But these merits are only effectual in people who believe in Jesus Christ. Sixth. *People will only be justified by faith in Jesus Christ and not by their good works.* No one in the world will ever be justified by keeping his religious laws. A person will only be saved from the holy anger of God against his sin, declared righteous in God’s eyes and delivered from the guilt, punishment and power of sin by believing in Jesus Christ.

(T) I want to share from Romans 3:29-30. God does not justify the Jews in a different way than the Gentiles! There is only *one God* and he is the God of all people, whether they acknowledge it or not! This God of the Bible justifies circumcised people *by faith* and uncircumcised people *through that same faith*. God does not recognise two groups of people in whom he takes special delight, namely the Jews and the Christian Church. *God has only one plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles*, and that is not by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. *God also has only one people of God, namely, the Church that consists of both Jews and Gentiles, who believe in Jesus Christ.* God has no special plan or programme for the Jews in the future. After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Jews have the same status as every other nationality on the earth.

(S) **POINT 2. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Divide Romans 4:1 to 8:39 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on www. Etc

Third. Listen on short wave radio from SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.