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Next Weeks Lesson: "The Author and Finisher of Our Faith" ([Hebrews](#))

Today's Lesson: "Beloved of God, Called to Be Saints" ([Romans](#))

[Romans 3:10](#). In this verse Paul was not suggesting that no one ever does righteous acts; instead, he was pointing out that no one on earth is perfectly righteous. Christ was the only person who ever lived a completely sinless life. Everyone else has committed some sin ([Romans 3:23](#)).

When we have sinned, what must we do to become clean again?

Once we commit sin, we cannot become completely clean again on our own. This lesson will discuss how we can become clean through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, a process that Paul called justification.

### 1. We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. ([Romans 2-5](#))

Paul had been writing to Church members in several areas who had returned to practicing the law of Moses, believing that strict observance of this law was necessary for salvation. Although the Saints in Rome were strong in the gospel ([Romans 1:8](#)), Paul wrote this epistle to emphasize that justification and salvation come through faith in Christ, not through the works of the law of Moses.

- A. In his letter, Paul tried to help the Roman Saints understand the doctrine of justification. What does it mean to be justified?
- B. Why do we need to be justified? ([Romans 3:10-12](#), [Romans 3:23](#); [Alma 7:21](#))
- C. What did Paul teach about how we are justified? ([Romans 3:24](#), [Romans 3:28](#); [Romans 5:1-2](#); [2 Nephi 2:6](#)) What is grace? How is this divine help made available to us? ([Romans 5:8-11](#); [2 Nephi 2:7-8](#)) Why is it necessary for us to have faith to fully receive the Savior's grace?
- D. Paul explained that justification comes through the grace of Jesus Christ, not through "the deeds of the law" ([Romans 3:20](#), [Romans 3:24](#), [Romans 3:28](#)). Why can't we earn justification and salvation exclusively through our works? ([Mosiah 2:20-21](#); [Alma 22:14](#))
- E. Many people have interpreted Paul's writings to mean that we can be justified through faith alone without good works. What is the relationship between our actions (or works) and justification through the grace of Christ? ([Romans 3:31](#); [James 2:14-18](#), [James 2:24](#); [2 Nephi 25:23](#); [D&C 88:38-39](#))

The Prophet Joseph Smith said: "To be justified before God we must love one another: we must overcome evil; we must visit the fatherless and the widow in their affliction, and we must keep ourselves unspotted from the world: for such virtues flow from the great fountain of pure religion, strengthening our faith by

adding every good quality that adorns the children of the blessed Jesus. We can pray in the season of prayer; we can love our neighbor as ourselves, and be faithful in tribulation, knowing that the reward of such is greater in the kingdom of heaven. What a consolation! What a joy!" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 76).

**2. We can be reborn and become joint-heirs with Christ. ([Romans 6](#), [Romans 8](#))**

- A.** Paul compared baptism to death, burial, and resurrection. How does baptism represent death, burial, and resurrection (new birth)? ([Romans 6:3-4](#); [D&C 76:50-52](#)) How was baptism a new birth for you?

Baptism by immersion is a symbol of our spiritual rebirth. When we go under the water, it is a symbol that we are burying our old self in a grave. When we come out of the water, we are symbolically washed clean. We have become a new person who has covenanted to follow Christ.

- B.** How can we maintain the cleanness and “newness of life” ([Romans 6:4](#)) that we experienced at baptism?
- C.** What does it mean to be “carnally minded”? ([Romans 8:5-6](#)) What are the consequences of being carnally minded? ([Romans 8:6-8](#), [Romans 8:13](#)) How can we eliminate the carnal from our minds and hearts? How have you been blessed when you have chosen to be spiritually minded?
- D.** Paul testified “that we are the children of God” ([Romans 8:16](#)). How are you affected by the knowledge that you are a child of God? What does this imply about your capacities and potential?

Elder Dallin H. Oaks said: “Consider the power of the idea taught in our beloved song ‘I Am a Child of God’ (*Hymns*, 301). ... Here is the answer to one of life’s great questions, ‘Who am I?’ I am a child of God with a spirit lineage to heavenly parents. That parentage defines our eternal potential. That powerful idea is a potent antidepressant. It can strengthen each of us to make righteous choices and to seek the best that is within us. Establish in the mind of a young person the powerful idea that he or she is a child of God, and you have given self-respect and motivation to move against the problems of life” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1995, 31; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 25).

- E.** What great promise did Paul say the children of God will receive? ([Romans 8:17](#)) What does it mean to be a joint-heir with Christ? ([D&C 76:50](#), [D&C 76:54-70](#)) What must we do to receive this great inheritance? ([D&C 76:51-53](#))
- F.** How can knowing that we are children of God and potential joint-heirs with Christ help us endure the trials of this world? ([Romans 8:18](#), [Romans 8:28](#), [Romans 8:31](#); [Romans 5:3-5](#)) How have you seen “all things work together for good to them that love God”? ([Romans 8:28](#)).

G. What did Paul teach in [Romans 8:35-39](#) about the love of Jesus Christ? How have you felt the Savior's love in your life? What difference has his love made in your life?

**3. We should live as becomes Saints. ([Romans 12-13](#); [Romans 15:1-7](#))**

A. Paul exhorted the Roman Saints to present themselves as “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” ([Romans 12:1](#)). How can we present ourselves as living sacrifices to God? ([3 Nephi 9:20](#); [D&C 59:8](#))

Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained, “To present [oneself] as a living sacrifice is to come forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit through obedience” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1966-73], 2:292).

B. Paul counseled the Roman Saints to “be not conformed to this world” ([Romans 12:2](#)). What are some ways that we try to conform to the world today? How can we overcome this tendency? ([Romans 12:2](#))

C. [Romans 12](#) and [Romans 13](#) list many attributes of true Saints. Why is this attribute important to develop? What can we do this week to further develop this attribute?

D. How did Paul instruct us to treat our enemies? ([Romans 12:19-21](#)) What blessings can come into our lives if we treat our enemies this way? What examples have you seen of someone using kindness to overcome evil or ill will?

E. What commandment did Paul say includes all other commandments? ([Romans 13:8-9](#)) How does this commandment include all others? ([Romans 13:10](#))

F. What did Paul teach about how members who are strong in the faith should respond to members who are weak in the faith? ([Romans 15:1-7](#)) How can a person who is strong in the faith help a person who is weak?

It is through faith in Jesus Christ and righteous living that we can be justified—declared righteous and reconciled to God. We are children of God and have the potential to become joint-heirs with Christ if we have faith in him and live as he has commanded us.