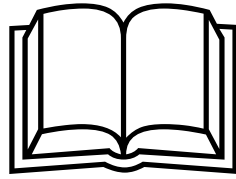


MAN'S RUIN— GOD'S REDEMPTION

L. R. Shelton, Jr.



Study Guide

Course MRG
Revised Edition

*a study of man's utter need
and God's complete answer
in Romans 1:16-32*

Instructions for this course

(detailed instructions in Appendix One)

The *reading material* for this course consists of the paperback book by L. R. Shelton, Jr. provided with this study guide:

Man's Ruin—God's Redemption.

Before each lesson: pray for God to give a teachable heart and understanding.



Begin the lesson by reading the related chapter in the book provided.



Answer the questions for the corresponding lesson in this study guide.

Use the required answer sheet format, putting your name and course information on each sheet (sample after the Table of Contents).

Use any standard note paper (or the answer sheets if provided).

Try to be as clear and concise as possible.

Please do not rush! Meditate on what God wants you to learn.

Don't go to the next question until completing the current one.

If, and only if, you are taking the course as correspondence study (with written feedback from others):

After completing lessons 1 to 5, send the completed answer sheets to your course coordinator. Send again when finished with lessons 6 to 10.

Only mail your answer sheets, not other materials.

All sent answers are handled confidentially.

Label the envelope's lower left with: student, course, and lesson numbers (inmates: only if allowed by your facility).



Continue taking the course until all lessons are completed.

Four months are allotted for course completion. Extensions may be granted upon request.



Your answer sheets are returned to you after review.

Keep all materials and returned answers together for future reference.

MAN'S RUIN—GOD'S REDEMPTION

a study of Romans 1:16-32

Study Guide

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MAN'S RUIN—GOD'S REDEMPTION

Study Guide

This Study Guide is based on the book *Man's Ruin—God's Redemption*, by L. R. Shelton, Jr.

Please answer the questions from the information given in the book. Each lesson in this study guide is related to one or more chapters in the book. For example, the information you need to answer the questions from *lesson one* in this Study Guide, is found in *chapters one and two* in the book. Before you begin the questions, please read the book's related chapter for the portion of the lesson you are taking.

Please read slowly enough so you understand what you read. It is also always good to pray before each lesson, asking the LORD for wisdom to apply what you learn to your life, and to enable you to love Him with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength... for this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30).

*Most questions simply ask for your **response** to the information in the text, and are intended to support a basic understanding of what is presented. For these you should use your own words, describing the meaning of what the text has said, not quoting from the text itself.*

*Some questions go much deeper to ask you to think through principles, and to search out your own heart for **practical application**. Please make your best effort to answer these (again in your own words), but please also realize there are no right or wrong answers. We are looking only for your best effort.*

Lesson 1 Man's Ruin, God's Wrath

Romans 1:16-18

Man's Awful Ruin

First please read ch. 1 in the book; questions 1-4 pertain to ch. 1.

Introduction

1. Describe the “awful plight and degradation of the human race” today, which this portion of God’s Word shows.

Very Important Note: We ask you to always use your own words in your answers. The answers to the Response questions are found in the textbook, but please do not merely quote the book for your answer. Rather, read what the text says, think about the meaning of what it says, and summarize its meaning in your own words for your answer. In this way, you will learn much more than simply a “search/find/quote” method for answering the questions.

Obvious Facts

2. a. What are the six “very obvious facts set forth” about mankind in Romans 1:16-32?
b. *Making It Personal:* Do you agree that these are true? Explain your answer.

God's Wrath and Gracious Redemption

3. a. What is the meaning of the larger context of these verses, which goes on to verse 18 of chapter 3?
b. What portion of mankind is included? Are you among this number?
4. After shutting us up completely to our helplessness and hopelessness:
 - a. What is the way of escape that God has provided, so that you can be saved?
 - b. How did God do this?

“The wrath of God” Romans 1:18

Please read ch. 2 in the book; questions 5-8 pertain to ch. 2.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

Our Only Hope

5. What are the five things mentioned as man’s *only hope* to deliver him from the deep pit of human confusion?
6. a. What is ‘God’s wrath’?
b. In your own words, how does it go together, for a loving God of mercy to also have wrath?

Only Wrath Remains

7. a. Who is God’s wrath against?
b. Why is God’s wrath against them?

Man by Nature

8. a. “It is a terrible thing for you to cast away the Word of God...”. What are the “awful things” mentioned?
b. *Making It Personal:* Please take a few minutes now honestly to examine yourself. Ask God to search your heart to reveal if you are practicing any of these sins, or those which the author asks about in the closing paragraph of chapter 2. This is deep and searching—are you guilty of any of these? Write a personal response on your answer sheet.

Lesson 2 Guilt and Depravity of Man *Romans 1:19-21*

“They are without excuse” Romans 1:19-20

Please read ch. 3 in the book; questions 1-3 pertain to ch. 3.

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has shown it to them.

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse.”

All Mankind Is Guilty, What All Know

1. a. What is all mankind guilty of?
b. What is “general revelation?”
c. What do we know by general revelation?
2. What do we learn from Romans 2:14-15 about man’s inner conscience?

Personal Application

3. “If those who have nothing but general revelation will be punished for not obeying and worshipping the true and living God, what punishment are you worthy of, who have had the light of revelation from the written Word of God?”
After searching your heart, please write your own answer to this question.

If you are not a Christian, ask God to open your heart to what He is saying to you from His Word (Romans 2:14-15). Remember, it is His mercy to reveal truths to you that were previously hidden, so that you may enter into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, our Creator and Savior!

“Their foolish heart was darkened.” Romans 1:21

Please read ch. 4 in the book; questions 4-7 pertain to ch. 4.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

Deep Depravity of Heart

4. The Scripture says “their foolish heart was darkened”. What does the author mean when he describes this as “the deep depravity of men’s hearts”. (Please include Jeremiah 17:9 in your answer.)

5. The author asks: “What about you who read and hear God’s Word preached from week to week, but will not bow before the sovereign God?”
 - a. In your own words, please write the reference and key point for each of the four Scriptures mentioned.

The “key point” of a verse is the meaning of the relevant phrase in the verse as it applies to the topic at hand. Please do not merely quote the verse. Rather: 1) read the verse several times meditatively, 2) pick out the key phrase as it applies to the question in this study guide, 3) think over the meaning behind the words—what is the author really trying to say, then 4) write this meaning (the “key point”) using your own words.

- b. *Making It Personal:* How does this apply to you personally?

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit

6. If man’s heart is “deceitful above all things”, how then can man “be born again?” (This is what our Lord taught very clearly to Nicodemus in John 3.)
7.
 - a. What are the six characteristics of the Holy Spirit, as illustrated by the wind? List and *briefly* explain each one.
 - b. How does this show that regeneration (the spiritual ‘new birth’) is all a work of God, and not something that man can do on his own?

Lesson 3 The Truth and the Lie

Romans 1:23-28

“Worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator” Romans 1:23-25

First please read ch. 5 in the book; questions 1-5 pertain to ch. 5.

“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Men Worship the Creature

1. a. What is the “lie” that men change the truth of God into?
b. Why do men do this? Include the meaning of John 3:19-20 in your answer.

The Way of Cain

2. “But the occult... is not the worst thing... The worst thing is this world-wide idol worship of *man’s will*”.
 - a. What is meant by this “way of Cain” (i.e., why did Cain kill his brother Able)?
 - b. Who are those who walk in the “way of Cain” today?
3. a. What are the “two doctrines in the Bible that men hate with all their soul?”
b. *Making It Personal*: In your own words, why do you think this is so?
4. *Making It Personal*

We learn that Cain is a representative of all those who worship God within their own “free will”—through their own reason, efforts, and desires, rather than bowing to His sovereign rule in their life as their Lord. They worship God in their own way, as Cain did.

Do you agree or disagree that a person’s “free will” can be a problem that keeps them from God? Why?

5. a. What are seven traits of those who “*have gone the way of Cain*?”
b. *Making It Personal*: Do you see some of these people around you? Are you now (or have you been) like this yourself? Explain.

Note: Trait #6 mentions the “carnal Christian theory.” This theory says that a person may be truly saved, and yet live in sin as a lifestyle, never growing in holiness. It is a misinterpretation of 1 Corinthians 3. A correct interpretation of 1 Corinthians 3 applies these verses only to those who have backslid temporarily into sin,

but not continued in sin as a lifestyle. Scripture teaches that all those who are truly saved will grow to become like Christ in a continuing process of sanctification (Rom. 8:29, Phil. 1:6, Heb. 13:21). If they choose to continue with some old sinful habits, the Lord lovingly will chastise (discipline) them to cause them to repent from sin and lean upon Him as they grow.

“Changed the truth of God into a lie” Rom. 1:25

Please read ch. 6 in the book; questions 6-8 pertain to ch. 6.

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Changing Truth into a Lie

6. a. There is “the truth of God” and there is “the lie”. Explain what is *the truth* and *the lie*.
- b. In your own words, what are the key points for each of the following:
 - James 1:17
 - Romans 3:10-12?

Which Truths Denied

7. “What are some of the truths of God, which man maligns and defames?” Four major truths are described in the text. Please list and *briefly* explain them in your own words.

Personal Application

8. Please answer the author’s questions to you at the end of chapter 6: “Have I bowed to the God of the Bible, as He is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ from the Holy Scriptures--the inspired Word of God? Or am I bowing down to the idol of my carnal reasoning, and turning the truth of God into a lie?”

Based on your answers, you may have discovered disobedience and rebellion against God in your life. Perhaps you weren’t aware of this before, but now God’s Word has brought it to your attention. You may be asking “what must I do?” or “how do I deal with this resistance in my heart to God’s truths and His claims upon my life?”

The purpose of this course is to lead people into a *saving relationship* with Christ, not just to fill our heads with more facts about Him. Perhaps

the best thing to do at this point is to find a quiet place, and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to search your heart and expose every area of your life that is not submitted to His Lordship (Psalm 139:23-24; 26:2; 17:3; 2 Cor. 13:5).

By faith, ask Him to show you every sin in your heart. Only God knows your heart and motives (Jer. 17:9), and therefore you cannot rely on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). He promises to give you wisdom if you ask and believe Him for it. It may be helpful to meditate on the following Scriptures: James 1:5-8; Matthew 7:7; Proverbs 2:1-7; 3:5-6.

If you are not a true Christian, and if the guilt of sin is weighing you down, then ask the Lord Jesus to save you, and believe that He will. He promises in His Word: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16), and “For the Scripture says, whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”! (Rom. 10:11-13).

If you are a Christian, but out of fellowship with God, then repent of your sins (read Psalm 51), and by faith in the soul-cleansing blood of Christ, lay hold of His promises. Please meditate on the following passages: Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:14-16; and 10:19-23. They are your own personal promises from God; He promises to restore fellowship with Him.

“...For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:14-16).

Throughout this course, the truths you learn may strike home to your heart. When this happens, please take the time to reflect on what God is saying to you through His Word. God speaks to you through His Word so that you may hear, repent, trust in Christ, and receive His mercy: the forgiveness of your sins.

“God gave them up” Romans 1: 24-28

Please read ch. 7 in the book; questions 9-12 pertain to ch. 7.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient”

“God Gave Them Up”

9. a. According to the text, what is meant by “God gave them up?”
- b. What is the ultimate consequence a person will face if God should “give him up?” (Before answering this question, please carefully read again Romans 1:24, 26, 27, and 28.)

“God Gave Them Up” Today

10. In verses 29-31, “you find the *highest faculty of man*, his mind, his understanding, receiving the *greatest judgment of God...*” What is this ‘greatest judgment of God’ upon a man in this life?

The Cause of Degradation

11. List the four “causes of this degradation” that “have brought man to this state”. Describe each one *briefly*.

“Easy Believism” and “Carnal Christian” Theory

12. a. What is meant by “Easy-believism” and the “Carnal Christian” theory (the third ‘cause’)? Describe these issues.
- b. *Making It Personal*: Do you agree with the author’s assertions? Why?

Lesson 4 God’s Judgment on the Lie

Romans 1:24, 26-28

“Uncleaness” Romans 1:24

First please read ch. 8 in the book; questions 1-5 pertain to ch. 8.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleaness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves”

“Uncleanness through the Lusts”

1. What is meant by the expression “uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts?”

“Dishonor Their Own Bodies”

2. What is meant by “to dishonor their own bodies between themselves?”
3. At the end of this section, the author asks “Are you saying ‘Lord, Lord’, and all the while...”. Please reread this portion and write on a *separate* piece of paper, which of the sins mentioned you are practicing. (*Do not mail this separate sheet with your answers—keep it for yourself.*) Without mentioning these sins individually, explain on your *answer sheet* how you truly feel about them in general, and what you hope to do about breaking off the practice of them in the future.

Personal Application

4. a. What is the one word that best describes “the salvation that God gives in Christ?”
b. In your own words, please also write the key point of 1 Peter 1:15-16.

Remember, the “key point” of a verse is the meaning of the relevant phrase in the verse as it applies to the topic at hand. Please use your own words to describe briefly what the author is really trying to say.

5. “You may say, ‘But I don’t live like that; I am moral and upright and live a clean life.’”
 - a. In the last paragraphs of chapter 8, what are the ways that seemingly moral and upright people, compromise their lives to become “unclean?”
 - b. *Making It Personal:* Which of these describe your own life style? What convictions do you have to change them?

“Vile affections” Romans 1:26-27

Please read ch. 9 in the book; questions 6-8 pertain to ch. 9.

“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

“And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”

What “Vile Affections” Are

6. Why does God hate this sin so much and plan to judge it so harshly?

What God’s Word Says

7. The homosexual practices of sodomy and lesbianism are only sins if God’s Word speaks against them. In addition to Romans 1:26-27, what are the verses which *specifically* speak to these practices *as sin*? List the reference and key point of each relevant verse mentioned in this section.

Personal Application

8. If he is to be delivered from the sin of homosexuality, what is one of the first things a person does, when God gives him the grace to seek deliverance?

“Reprobate Mind” Romans 1:28

Please read ch. 10 in the book; questions 9-15 pertain to ch. 10.

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”

What a “Reprobate Mind” Is

9. a. In your own words, what does the author mean when he says: “The human race put God to the test... He has put God on trial.” How has man done this?
b. What are the consequences?
10. Please reread this section in the text. Very clearly, what is meant by a *reprobate mind*?

11. Why is “man’s free will in salvation” not capable of choosing for God?
12. “Man’s specifications” for salvation are “to let him go to heaven, yet have his fill of sin while still on this earth.”
 - a. In contrast, what are “the terms of God’s salvation?”
 - b. Why does man hate God’s terms?

The Effects

13. What are four “effects of God’s giving man over to a reprobate mind,” which we see in society today?
14. In the second to last paragraph of the chapter, the author mentions “The most awful effect of them all...”. “This is the effect in religion of God’s giving men over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.” In your own words, what are ‘those things’?
15. *Making It Personal:* Based on your answer to the last question, what is your personal experience with teachers who mislead people by telling them: they can daily live in sin and rebellion against God, and still be saved if they only ‘make a decision for Christ’?

Lesson 5 Catalog of Sins I

Romans 1:29-30

“Unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness” Romans 1:29

First read ch. 11 in the book; questions 1-6 pertain to ch. 11.

“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”

Review

1. How are the phrases “being filled with” and “full of” in verse 29, used to substantiate the doctrine of the *total depravity of man*?

“Unrighteousness” and Ungodliness

2. What is meant by *unrighteousness* (1:18, 29) and *ungodliness* (1:18)?

“Fornication” and “Wickedness”

3. What is the sin of *fornication*, and what is its consequence?
4. What is the sin of *wickedness*, and where does it come from?

“Covetousness”

5. a. What is the sin of *covetousness*?
b. Colossians 3:5 links covetousness to idolatry. What is idolatry, and what is the *idol of self*?
6. *Making It Personal*: The author says, “Oh, my dear reader, I ask you: Have you ever repented of your wicked heart? Have you ever cried unto God to deliver you from your wicked heart and wicked desires, which are sin against Him? Have you ever hated your wicked ways, and desired to be washed from your wicked sins in the blood of Christ? Does sin trouble you and bring you to your knees, crying for mercy?”

Please give a personal answer to these questions.

Please pause to search your heart, even if it causes great pain, to understand your true condition before God, who knows the hearts of all men. We do well to heed the words of Matthew 10:26, 28, “There is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

“Maliciousness; full of envy, murder”

Romans 1:29

Please read ch. 12 in the book; questions 7-9 pertain to ch. 12.

“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”

“Maliciousness” and “Full of Envy”

7. What is the sin of *maliciousness*?
8. What is the sin of *envy*, and what does it breed?

“Murder” and Abortion

9. a. Must we consider *abortion* to be murder? Why?
- b. Please write the key point of each of the following:
 - Psalm 127:3-5
 - Exodus 21:22-25
 - Psalm 139:13-16.

“Debate, deceit” Romans 1:29

Please read ch. 13 in the book; questions 10-13 pertain to ch. 13.

“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”

Total Depravity

10. a. Based on Mark 7:21, what does the author say is “the greatest mistake we can make?”
- b. Do you agree, and why?

“Debate”

11. What is the sin of *debate*, and what must we do instead, in order “to walk with love in our hearts?”

“Deceit”

12. a. What is the sin of *deceit*, and what revealing synonyms for it are listed?
 - b. Regarding deceit, why do men lie to themselves and others so much, ie, why do they “play games with themselves?”
13. The author says: “the worst condition you can be in is to be deceived into believing that all is well with your never-dying soul, when in fact you are headed straight for hell”.
 - a. What are some of the things such a person must be deceived about?
 - b. *Making It Personal*: Have you been deceived about these things?

Lesson 6 Catalog of Sins II

Romans 1:29-31

“Malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud” Romans 1:29-30

First please read ch. 14 in the book; questions 1-6 are for ch. 14.

“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

“Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents”

“Malignity”

1. How would you describe a person with the sin of *malignity*, and what are its effects?

Sins of the Tongue

2. a. How are the sins of being *whisperers* and *backbiters* related?
b. Who are the three persons who are injured by a slanderer, and how are each injured?

“Haters of God”

3. a. What are four things which “*haters of God*” in fact do hate about God? Why?
b. *Making It Personal*: Like the author, have you recognized the subtle ways in which you have hated God in your own heart? How?

“Spiteful” and “Pride”

4. How does the sin of being *spiteful* show itself?
5. a. What are some synonyms for the sin of *pride*?
b. What is the key message of Isaiah 2:11-12?
c. What does pride deceive the heart into believing?

Personal Application

6. a. What does 1 Peter 5:6 tell us to do, and what does Isaiah 57:15 tell us will be the result?
b. Have you done this, and if not, why not?

“Boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding”
Romans 1:30-31

Please read ch. 15 in the book; questions 7-11 pertain to ch. 15.

“Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

“Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful”

“Boasters” and “Inventors of Evil Things”

7. a. How is the sin of being *boasters* related to pride?
b. Why has man nothing to boast about?
8. a. What is the sin of being *inventors of evil things*, and how is it related to finding ‘satisfaction’?
b. What does Isaiah 57:20-21 tell us about satisfaction? Why are people in the world never really deep-down satisfied?

“Disobedient to Parents”

9. a. What are the results of the sin of *disobedience to parents*?
b. What are the key points of each of the following:
 - Exodus 20:12
 - Proverbs 20:20
 - Matthew 15:4
 - Ephesians 6:1-3?

“Without Understanding”

10. What does 1 Corinthians 2:14 tell us about the sin of being *without understanding*?

Conclusions

11. What two conclusions must we draw from this list of sins in Romans 1:16-32?

Lesson 7 Catalog of Sins III

Romans 1:31

“Without [spiritual] understanding” Romans 1:31

Please read ch. 16 in the book; questions 1-7 pertain to ch. 16.

“Without [spiritual] understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful”

Necessity of the Spirit

1. a. What is commonly preached and taught today about the Holy Spirit regarding our salvation?
b. Do you agree with the author that this is error? Why?
2. Why is it that “the salvation that God gives in Christ is a *spiritual* thing?”

How Salvation Takes Place

3. a. What truth is given in Ephesians 2:1, about man’s spiritual state apart from God?
b. How can a dead man come to new life?

The Sovereignty of God

4. a. Write the reference and key points of each:
 - Daniel 4:35
 - Romans 9:16,18.
b. Have you ever bowed to the sovereignty of God? Why?

One Way

5. In your own words, why do men try to get to Heaven in any way they can except through Christ?
6. Why is Christ the only way to reach heaven?

Made Holy

7. a. How does man become a partaker of the same moral nature of God?
b. What is the result of having the same moral nature as God?

**“Covenant-breakers, without natural affection,
implacable, unmerciful” Romans 1:31**

Please read ch. 17 in the book; questions 8-10 pertain to ch. 17.

“Without [spiritual] understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful”

“Covenant-breakers”

8. What is meant by the sin of *covenant-breaking*?

“Without natural affection, Implacable, Unmerciful”

9. What is meant by the sins of being *without natural affection*, *implacable*, *unmerciful*?

Personal Application

10. a. “If you are without Christ today,” then where are you?

b. *Making It Personal*: If so, what does the author urge you to do? Have you done so?

Lesson 8 The Worst of Sins

Romans 1:32

**“Knowing the judgment of God... worthy of death”
Romans 1:32**

Please read ch. 18 in the book; questions 1-5 pertain to ch. 18.

“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

Men Have Knowledge of Sin (1)

(“knowing the judgment of God... are worthy of death”)

1. a. In your own words, what is wrong with “doing your own thing?” (Personal answer.)

b. What is the end result of “doing your own thing?” On what basis can we be certain of this?

2. What is meant by “knowing the judgment of God?”

3. Why is “every man without excuse” (1:20), whether in the highest or lowest civilization?

Men Have Knowledge of God’s Judgment (2)

(“...the judgment of God”)

4. Why did Jesus cry at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)?
5. Why did Jesus Christ, God’s Son, have to suffer and die on the cross?

“They... not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” Romans 1:32

Please read ch. 19 in the book; questions 6-11 pertain to ch. 19.

“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

Men Persist in Sin (3) (“...not only do the same”)

6. “Men persist in iniquity and in rebellion against God...”
 - a. Because men’s hearts are darkened from Adam’s fall. Explain what this means using Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 8:7, and 1 Timothy 4:2.
 - b. Because of the *power of sin*. Explain what this means.
 - c. Because men love darkness rather than light. Explain what this means.

Men Condone Sin (4) (“...have pleasure in those that do them”)

7. List some of the steps in the pattern of downward spiral that is evident in what we are learning from Romans 1:32.
8. What does it mean to “have pleasure in them that do them?”

Men Support Sin (5)

9. What are some of the examples mentioned in our society, of “supporting sin and vices?”

Personal Application

10. What is the answer to the objection: “But everybody commits sin?”

Our Only Hope

11. “You may ask, ‘What is my hope?’” What two things does the author offer as “our only hope?”

Lesson 9 Marvelous Work of Christ

Romans 1:16-17

Christ’s Substitutionary Death Romans 1:16

Please read ch. 20 in the book; questions 1-8 pertain to ch. 20.

“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.”

The Natural Man Apart from God

1. “We have seen in our exposition of Romans 1:16-32, that man at his best...” is what three things?
2. What is “the reason we have dealt so long with verses 18 - 32 of Romans 1?”

The Gospel of Christ

3. The author repeats: “There is only one kind of gospel, or good news, that could be the power of God unto salvation”. Describe what it is.
4. “The nature of the demands of the law of God necessitates a certain kind of salvation.”
 - a. What is this nature of the demands of the law?
 - b. Do you believe that you could ever meet these demands on your own? (personal answer).
 - c. How did God meet these requirements?

The Substitutionary Work of Christ at the Cross

5. Four words are used in the New Testament to describe the substitutionary work of Christ at the cross.
 - a. Please write out in their entirety the verses used as references for *propitiation*. As you write, meditate on what it means.

- b. Briefly, what is the meaning of *propitiation*?
- 6. a. Please write out in their entirety, the verses used as references for *reconciliation*.
b. What is the meaning of *reconciliation*?
- 7. a. Please write out in its entirety, the verse used as a reference for *redemption*.
b. What is the meaning of *redemption*?
- 8. a. Please write out in its entirety, the verse used as a reference for *sacrifice*.
b. What is the meaning of *sacrifice*?

God's Justice and Righteousness Romans 1:17

Please read ch. 21 in the book; questions 9-15 pertain to ch. 21.

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’.”

Justice and Righteousness

- 9. Justice, righteousness, and holiness are said to describe God's moral character. (Holiness is considered in chapter 22.)
a. Because God is just and righteous, what will He always do toward men?
b. Why can God not do anything which contradicts His character? (Use 2 Timothy 2:13.)
c. List some of the Scriptures which tell us that God is just and righteous.

[Note: the rest of chapter 21 is devoted to a very careful and logical development of five aspects of God's salvation, which fully meet the necessity for consistency between His salvation and His moral character of justice and righteousness.

Five Requirements for God's Salvation

God Cannot Let Sin Go Unpunished (1)

- 10. “God cannot simply forgive sinners and let their sins go unpunished.”
a. Why?
b. List the reference and key point of each of the three Scriptures given in support.

- c. What is the just punishment for man's sin (see Rom. 6:23)?

There Must Be a Substitute (2)

11. "If God is to be just and [at the same time also be] the Justifier of sinners..., then a... substitute must be found."

What are the conditions that this substitute must meet?

Only God Could Be the Substitute (3)

12. "Only God Himself could be the perfect and proper substitute..."

- a. What is the work of this substitute, i.e., what did He come to do?
- b. Who is this substitute?
- c. Why did He have to assume human nature? What is the key point of Hebrews 2:14-18?

The Substitute Must Be Sinless (4)

13. "The sinlessness of the substitute... was necessary"

- a. In your own words, why was the sinlessness of the substitute necessary?
- b. Write out the Scripture and reference mentioned, meditating on its meaning.

Christ Alone Could Satisfy God's Demands (5)

14. "The death of Christ... alone could satisfy the demands of God's justice." Why (in your own words)?

15. a. What price must we pay for this?
- b. Is there anything we can do to deserve it?
- c. Summarize Isaiah 53:10,4-5 in your own words.

Lesson 10 Holiness and Salvation

The Requirements of God's Holy Law

Please read ch. 22 in the book; questions 1-6 pertain to ch. 22.

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 20:7)

“But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)

“Be Ye Holy”

1. Why is it that “we are commanded by the holy law of God to ‘be holy even as God is holy’?”
2. What is the consequence of not keeping God’s holy law *perfectly, personally, and perpetually*?

Requirements of the Law

3. a. What is “the only obedience acceptable before God?”
b. Please give a personal answer to the author’s question: “Has your obedience to the holy law of God come up to the perfect standard of the law?” If not, do you agree that this is enough to send your soul to hell?
4. What is it that we must have, as law-breakers, in order “to stand before God and not be judged guilty and cast into hell?”

The Glorious Gospel: Christ, Our Substitute

5. In your own words, please summarize what the author say about “the glorious gospel of the grace of God in Christ..., which brings salvation?”

Personal Application

6. In the closing paragraphs of chapter 22, the author asks the reader some personal questions.
 - a. Please search your heart and answer these questions in your own words.
 - b. What have you done about your conclusions?

The Precious Blood of Christ

Please read ch. 23 in the book; questions 7-13 pertain to ch. 23.

The Precious Blood of Jesus

7. What is “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth?”
8. a. Why is it that “the Bible puts great emphasis on the blood of God’s appointed sacrifice?”

- b. What are the key points of the two verses mentioned?
(Please list the reference and key point for each.)
- 9. What three things does “the good news of the gospel” say that
“the blood-shedding of our Lord has given us?”

Change in Our Lives

- 10. When we have indeed laid hold of Christ, what changes does
our imputed righteousness bring about in our lives on
earth? [‘Imputed’ means to be granted by God, and not earned
by us.] Please answer this question with the key meaning
of each of these verses, in your own words:
Colossians 1:20, Hebrews 10:19, 1 John 1:7, Revelation 12:11.
- 11. a. Why is there a “marked difference between us and the world
of unbelievers” when we are truly saved?
b. What is meant by phrases like “crucified unto the world”
and “death to self” and “died to the world?”
- 12. What four things are secured for us by the blood of Christ,
when God saves us?

The Gospel Applied to the Heart

- 13. *Making It Personal:* In the closing comment, the author asks
“Will you come and believe and trust Him and look to
Him?” Please answer from your own heart, considering
this question very carefully. Indeed, it’s answer will
mean the difference between life or death!

Closing Remarks

The purpose of this course has been to encourage you to seek the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your never-dying soul. Although much of what you have studied has been heart-searching and painful to contemplate, yet this process is necessary to bring us to see our great need of Christ as the only Savior from sin, and its ultimate punishment in hell. If He has been convicting you of sin and the judgment to come, and you find that you want nothing else but to turn away from your sin and become a child of God, then God has given you this desire—it is evidence of His

great mercy toward you. But don't stop there! Will you now trust Jesus Christ to save you from your sin? He is waiting and willing to save you! Listen to His promises which He gives to you personally:

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:28-30).

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Trust your life unto the Lord Jesus Christ. He is listening to your cry, and will save you as He promised, when you seek Him with all your heart. He cannot lie!!

*Thank you for taking this course.
Please write for your next course now.*

Appendix One: Detailed Course Instructions

1. Procedure for Taking the Course

- a. The reading material for this course consists of the reading text printed at the beginning of each lesson of this study guide.
- b. Before beginning to read, please pray for God's enabling to learn spiritually.
- c. Before you begin a lesson, please read the reading text completely.
- d. After reading the text, answer the related questions in this study guide. The lessons in this course are "open book," which often enhances learning by removing unnecessary pressure. In addition, some questions ask for a *personal response*, where the answer will not be found in the reading material. In this case, we ask only for your honesty and best effort.
- e. Carefully think through the questions. Several of the questions are sensitive; they have to do with your heart relationship with God. So please do not rush or you will be defeating the purpose of the course! Answer *all* of the questions as *honestly* as you can. The answers are confidential.
- f. Do not go to the next question until you have answered the previous one.

2. Answer pages

Try to be concise and as clear as possible in your answers. Please write or type your answers on regular 8.5 x 11 inch (A4 metric) paper, or on the preprinted answer sheets if provided. Please write clearly and neatly, and if possible print.

3. Supplies

Paper, pen, and Bible are needed to complete your assignments. The King James Version is quoted, but you may use another version if you do not have a KJV.

4. Completion of Assignments

- a. If you are taking this course with a local coordinator, please follow their instructions.
- b. If you are taking this course as **individual independent study** (non-graded), we recommend that you save your answer sheets for future reference. (*Please skip the below instructions numbered 5 and 6*).

5. Only if Correspondent Study

- a. Four months are allotted for the completion of this course. You may be granted an extension by contacting your course coordinator.
- b. Mail your answer sheets (and not the study guide) to your course coordinator after completing lessons 1 to 5. Your lessons will be reviewed and returned as soon as possible, by regular mail. *Please make sure you write your **name, student ID, course title, and lesson number** on each answer sheet. (See sample page 2.)* Headings should be in the following format:
Your name student ID course MRG lesson number

6. Written Feedback (only if correspondent study)

Spiritual success is not measured by high grades, but by growth in a holy life and Christ-likeness, to God's glory. Therefore, the prime motivation in taking this course is to see God change our lives. There are no letter or number grades such as "A" or "100" to be earned. The grader will offer comments or suggestions from Scripture in response to your answers. Some answers will have no comments because the answer is correct or is of a personal nature.