**The Book of Romans**

 Part Two: God’s righteousness is revealed in His gracious provision of the Gospel. (3:21–4:25)

***“Who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”***

***Romans 4:25***

It is impossible to explain Western Civilization apart from the person of Jesus Christ, and just as impossible to explain (or account for) Jesus Christ apart from His resurrection. Those who claim to doubt Jesus’ miracles and even His existence leave unanswered the questions of where the concepts of equality, justice, mercy, and human rights came from and how they evolved uniquely in the West. Why is it that we are characterized by a hopeful outlook, independence, and desire to discover and develop natural resources? Despite the perversion of some of these and the slow development of others, it is difficult to account for our underlying culture apart from Jesus’ resurrection. And it is impossible to be made right with God without it.

***(Abraham, the father of the covenant, was declared righteous when he believed God’s promises. So are we, when we believe God’s promises to save those who trust in Jesus [4:1-24] . . .)***

***Because His death paid our sin-debt. . .*** v. 25a

Had Jesus come merely as a “good teacher” to “show us the way,” or a political figure to roust the Romans and restore the sovereignty of Israel, our main problem would never have been solved. There must be a payment for the sins of God’s people, and Jesus was that payment. Because He was “delivered up” by both man and God, it was on the Cross where justice met mercy, holiness met love, and a righteous God met (and still meets) sinful man. The Cross destroys the myths of the uninterested God and the seeking Man. We can be reconciled to the God from whom we are estranged only because, in Jesus, He came seeking us, found us, and paid for our sins. Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12; Mark 14:1-11, 43-46; Acts 2:22-24; 4:27, 28.

***And His resurrection validated our right standing before God.*** v. 25b

 Had Jesus merely come, taught us, and died for us, it would have been in vain. In fact, without the Resurrection as the capstone of the Good News, there is no gospel at all, and we would be, of all humanity, most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

As it is, Jesus’ resurrection means that God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf. Jesus conquered death, the penalty for sin, for His people, so they can be unafraid of God’s judgment. Since their sins have been put behind them, and paid for at the Cross. Our resurrection will mean that death, our last enemy is defeated, and we will reign eternally with the risen Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

**Applying God’s Truth to Life**

***What does the Resurrection of Jesus have to do with us now?***

1. Power. The Resurrection is the measure of a God’s Spirit working within us. Ephesians 1:19-23

Power to overcome indwelling sin. Romans 6:5, 11

Power to forgive as we’ve been forgiven. Matthew 6:12

Power to disciple others. Matthew 28:18-20

2. Perspective. The Resurrection is the means by which we identify with Jesus in Heaven. Colossians 3:1-11

Perspective to live a new way of life. Colossians 2:12-17

Perspective to live a life of grace. Romans 7:4-6

3. Position. The Resurrection is the assurance we have that we are alive in Christ and have a place in His Body for

 service.

Position of servant. Ephesians 4:10-16

Position of victor. Romans 8:18, 37-39