

Romans Lesson 4

We have the privilege
of telling people
about Jesus.

We have the
authority to tell
others about Jesus.

We have a calling on
our life to do so.

Romans 1:14

14 I am a debtor

“I have been given the good news from the Savior Himself, and I now have the responsibility—a debt to pay—to give this news to someone else.”



*Yours faithfully in Christ,
John Newton Taylor*

“I saw differently. I think the Chinese are like most Christians today, they are unconcerned about the plight of the sinners who are now just a grab away from them. The reason is that they are so busy with their work.”

Romans 1:14

14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

15 So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel,

**Jesus is A
THING
and not
THE
THING.**

**Jesus
was the
box.**

**Paul isn't
living for what
he can get out
of this life.**

**Paul is living
for Jesus in
this life.**

**The good news
of Jesus has the
power to change
someone's life
here on earth
and their
eternal
destination.**

Romans 1:16 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.

***SO POWERFUL
THAT IT SAVES
PEOPLE.***

Romans 1:17

17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

We have to start with the bad news first.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

The why behind why we need God.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Your God is not THE GOD.

19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. `



They would have to change their life to adhere to what He says.

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

The definition of idolatry, according to Webster, is excessive devotion to, or reverence for some person or thing."

An idol is anything that replaces the one, true God.

"WHATEVER YOU LOVE MOST, SERVE MOST, SEEK OUT MOST, GIVE TO THE MOST, AND CARE ABOUT THE MOST IS YOUR idol."

Your idol can be your career, your bank account, the way you look, a particular position or degree, influence, power, or physical pleasure.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their heart to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

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Genesis 19:4–7

4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house.

5 They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him

7 and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing.

Leviticus 20:13

13 “ ‘If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

Romans 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

**Jesus can
change
anyone -
anytime - no
matter what
their sin is.**

Jackie Hill Perry: God knew He wouldn’t get my attention in a church.

Churches didn't care too well for people like me. Me, being a gay girl. So God came to my house. As suddenly and randomly as Paul was struck blind on the Damascus Road, I had the unsettling thought that my sin would be "the death of me."

Prior to that moment, the sin I wore on my sleeve was that of a lesbian: a label I had the courage to give myself at age 17. I liked girls, and I knew it, "But I don't want to be straight," I said to God, meaning every single word.

I had grown up in the traditional black church, where sermons were presented in a Mount Sinai kind of way, both loud and heavy. I'd heard the preacher speak for God when he read to us from Romans 1 about God giving his creatures over to the sinful desires of their hearts, which included men and women "exchanging natural sexual relations" for "shameful lusts" toward members of the same sex (v. 26).

So when my thoughts spoke of my sin, I knew that to be a prompting from God and not my subconscious behaving unnaturally. What offended me most was the idea that my sin was to be the death of me. Because if that were true, then surely I would be asked to lay it aside for the sake of life.

I loved my girlfriend too much not to be appalled at the prospect of laying aside not only the way I loved but also who I loved. I loved her, and she loved me—but God loved me more. So much so that he wouldn't have me going about the rest of my life convinced that a creature's love was better than a King's.

Homosexuality might have been my loudest sin, but it was not my only sin. By calling me to Himself, He was after my whole heart. When God saves, he saves holistically.

That night, I knew that it wasn't just my lesbianism that had me at odds with God—it was my entire heart. I sat up in my bed and thought deeply about all that was happening in me. Now it seemed as if God was inviting me to know Him. To love Him. To be in a relationship with Him. That moment—that epiphany that my sin, left untreated, would be “the death of me”—wasn't a matter of trying to be straight or even trying to escape hell.

No, it was about God positioning himself before my eyes, so that I could finally see that he is everything he says he is—and worthy to be trusted. In the same Bible where I found condemnation (Rom. 1:18-32), I also found the good news that God loved and died for people like me so that I could live forever (John 3:16).

I didn't need to know much more than that. Without a sermon - I saw Jesus. He was better than everything I'd ever known and more worthy of having everything that I thought was mine to own, including my affections. Shortly after that pivotal night, I was doing the painful work of breaking up with my girlfriend. Her tears were too loud to listen to without regret.

To leave her, our love, made no sense apart from the divine doing of God. Though it was painful, it was better for me to lose her than to lose my soul. “I just gotta live for God now,” I said with a tear-broken voice. A new identity was to come after I hung up.

I had no idea what would come next or how I'd have the power to resist everything I'd once lived for, but I knew that if Jesus was God and if God was mighty to save, then surely, God would be mighty to keep. And 10 years later, he is still keeping this girl godly.

**People
don't know
what the
Bible says
on this
subject.**

What the LGBTQ community is saying: Love between men is celebrated in the Bible with the story of David and Jonathan. "Your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women," David said in his famous lament for Jonathan.

Their relationship inspires LGBTQ people and affirms that same-sex couples are blessed by God. The modern idea of sexual orientation didn't exist in Biblical times, but the powerful love story of Jonathan and David in 1 and 2 Samuel suggests that same-sex couples are affirmed and blessed by God.

It's impossible to know whether David and Jonathan expressed their love sexually. Some consider David to be bisexual, since the Hebrew scriptures also recount how he committed adultery with Bathsheba and later made her one of his eight wives. There is no doubt that many people today do honor David and Jonathan as gay saints.

**The Bible is
VERY clear on
the subject of
homosexuality.**

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of Jesus has the
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