Lesson 8: God Saves, Justifies, and Reconciles

Golden Text:
"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"
— **Romans 5:10 NIV**

Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

Key Area	Details and Summary
WHO (Author & Audience)	The Apostle Paul wrote this, through the Holy Spirit, to believers in Rome—both Jews and non-Jews.
WHAT (Core Message)	God freely saves, forgives, and brings guilty people back into a close relationship with Him when they trust in Jesus Christ.
WHEN (Timing)	Written around A.D. 57–58.
WHERE (Location)	Written from the city of Corinth during Paul's third missionary journey.
WHY (Rationale)	To show how God's goodness is given through faith in Jesus, giving believers permanent peace and security.

Bridge from Lesson 7 to Lesson 8

In **Lesson 7**, we stood in a courtroom where Paul proved that every single person has broken God's rules and is guilty. Every excuse was taken away, leaving the whole room silent. But that bad news wasn't meant to make us give up; it was meant to show us that we cannot save ourselves and that we desperately need help.
Now, in **Lesson 8**, the courtroom doors open to God's amazing grace! The Judge Himself steps forward not to punish us, but to offer a full pardon, a clean record, and a restored friendship through faith in Jesus Christ.

Introduction

Imagine someone who owes millions of dollars in bills they can never pay back. They are about to lose everything. But right before the penalty hits, a wealthy friend steps in, pays every penny of the debt, and adopts that person into his own family, giving them a safe and happy home. In Romans, Paul shows us that Jesus is that friend. God doesn't just pretend our bad choices didn't happen; He paid the price at the cross so He could legally declare us innocent. This lesson looks at how God saves us, the amazing gifts He gives us, and His deep love that brings us back to Him.

Section 1: Salvation Through Faith

Scripture: Romans 3:21–31

Word Study

- **Select the Word:** Choose a significant term from the Bible passage.
- **Find the Original Word:** Look up the original Hebrew or Greek word along with its precise definition.
- **Read the Immediate Context:** Read the verse before and after to get an understanding of what's happening.
- **Trace the Word Through Scripture:** Look at how the exact same word is used in other books or passages of the Bible.
- **Compare and Apply:** Write a summary sentence on what it means to you.

Discussion Questions

1. **(Text)** How does the phrase "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" summarize the first three chapters of Romans, and why is this universal diagnosis necessary to understand verse 24?

2. **(Application)** Since "boasting is excluded," how should the gospel change your thinking or speech when you are tempted to measure your spiritual maturity or morality against someone else's?

Section 2: The Benefits of Being Made Right

Scripture: Romans 5:1–5

Word Study

- **Select the Word:** Choose a significant term from the Bible passage.
- **Find the Original Word:** Look up the original Hebrew or Greek word along with its precise definition.
- **Read the Immediate Context:** Read the verse before and after to get an understanding of what's happening.
- **Trace the Word Through Scripture:** Look at how the exact same word is used in other books or passages of the Bible.
- **Compare and Apply:** Write a summary sentence on what it means to you.

Discussion Questions

1. **(Text)** Why does Paul say that "hope maketh not ashamed"?
2. **(Application)** When trials come your way, what is your default reflex—to pull away from God and look for an escape hatch, or to lean into the endurance He produces?

Section 3: God's Reconciling Love

Scripture: Romans 5:6–11

Word Study

- **Select the Word:** Choose a significant term from the Bible passage.
- **Find the Original Word:** Look up the original Hebrew or Greek word along with its precise definition.
- **Read the Immediate Context:** Read the verse before and after to get an understanding of what's happening.
- **Trace the Word Through Scripture:** Look at how the exact same word is used in other books or passages of the Bible.
- **Compare and Apply:** Write a summary sentence on what it means to you.

Discussion Questions

1. **(Text)** What does Paul's description of humanity as weak, ungodly, sinful, and hostile toward God reveal about the nature of God's love

2. **(Application)** If God demonstrated His love toward us while we were still sinners, how should this influence the way we respond to people who have disappointed, offended, or hurt us?

Closing: Bringing It All Together

Lesson 8 can be summed up in three main ideas:

1. **A Free Rescue:** God's right standing is given as a free gift through faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21–31).
2. **A New Position:** We have peace with God and a hope that never lets us down (Romans 5:1–5).
3. **A Restored Friendship:** We were brought back into God's family through Jesus while we were still helpless (Romans 5:6–11).

We were spiritually bankrupt, drowning in a debt we could never pay. But Jesus stepped in, paid our price in full, and adopted us as His own. Today, we aren't defined by our past debts—we are cherished children and deeply loved friends of God.

Looking Ahead to Lesson 9

- **Lesson 9 Title:** Set Apart for God's Work
- **Core Message:** God cleanses believers to live for His holy purpose.
- **Scripture Focus:** Romans 5:12–6:23
- **Preview:** In our next lesson, we will look at how Jesus frees us from the power of sin so we can live a brand-new, purpose-filled life.