

UNLIMITED

NEWSLETTER

UNLIMITED GROWTH

...we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (Ephesians 4:15, NLT).

We all live our lives in motion. Sometimes, we feel pulled in so many directions, we feel as if we're just going in circles. Have you ever felt like that? In his later years, when I'd ask Dr Desmond Ford how he was doing, he'd often respond with, "They never bury anything that moves." The truth is that while we live, we move. The question is, are you moving in the right direction?

After his resurrection, Jesus had told his disciples to meet him in Galilee, and once they get there, Jesus makes sure that he has some "alone-time" with Peter. Peter was devastated that he had disowned Jesus in the house of the High Priest. He probably felt like total rubbish, completely unworthy to be trusted by Jesus again. After all, Peter had had set such standards for himself, and he had also failed so miserably!

Now, Jesus asks Peter, *Simon son of John, do you love more than these?*

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

... "Follow me!" (John 21:15-23).

**Keep growing
in your love
for Jesus.**

Keep growing in your love for Christ.

When Jesus spoke with Peter, he knew that there was a possibility that Peter might get stuck in the failures and the pain of his past. And so, Jesus wants to challenge Peter to keep growing in the right direction, and so he asks him, Do you love me?

When Peter answers that he does, what Jesus is saying to him, in effect, is, "That's good, Peter. You're headed in the

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CHRIST'S PRECIOUS PROMISES Part 1

The glory of the Book of Romans is that it speaks to the four core issues of human existence: Right and Wrong, Acceptance with God, Self-acceptance, Death. These issues are addressed and satisfied in Christ.

If the people of our world knew just how valuable the Book of Romans really is, and if it were a book that's hard to find, they would fight to get it.

And having found it, they would study it as though their lives depended on it (which they do). They would treasure it more than a rich gold mine, more than a diamond mine.

The book of Romans contains the remedies for our human ills. The Book of Romans has the answers to our human problems. It goes deep into our souls, and we can only stand what we see there because Romans also goes deep, deep into the heart of God.

Bad News Can Be Good

Even the bad news in Romans becomes good news, because that bad news throws us upon Christ. (Even God can't help us unless we have a sense of need.)

The bad news in the Book of Romans is that every thought we have is defiled. Every emotion of our heart, every tendency of our mind, and every inclination of the flesh is tainted—in every one of us—until the second coming of Jesus and glorification.

That's the bad news. But even the bad news in the Book of Romans is good news because it throws us upon Jesus, who alone is our righteousness and our strength and our wisdom.

Errors from Ignorance

Jesus once said to people at a religious gathering, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the

power of God" (Matthew 22:29 NIV and Mark 12:24). We make mistakes because we don't know the Bible.

The word Jesus used when he said "in error" is a word that's used to symbolise a straying sheep, a planet out of its course, or a falling star. Jesus is saying we're all a flock of lost sheep because we don't know the Scriptures well enough.

Jesus implies that if we knew the Scriptures better, we wouldn't have so much to undo. The problem in life is not so much the doing, as it is the undoing. Undoing our actions is a problem that's too big for us.

Paul says something similar to the words of Jesus: Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame (1 Corinthians 15:34).

Paul is telling me that if I knew God better, as found in the Bible, I just wouldn't miss the mark so often.

First Issue: Right and Wrong

Romans has the wisdom to address the four core issues of life. Life may be a multicoloured kaleidoscope, but life's central issue is right and wrong.

These are what elicit praise from us, or blame, or joy, or hatred. Everything swings and depends on right and wrong.

▼ **DES FORD**

To be continued: This series of articles on the Book of Romans was first published in 1995, and will be reproduced serially over coming editions of Unlimited.

SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH GOSPEL STUDY COURSES

Following the launch of the brand new "Becoming a Follower of Jesus" free online course, I've turned my attention to what else we can do to help more people around receive and understand the Gospel.

It's wonderful to be able to reach people through our very popular daily devotions by email, and our social media messaging, but this doesn't perfectly fulfil the brief of Jesus' Great Commission, which clearly includes a definite focus on making disciples and teaching people. Online courses are a great way to engage more deeply with people and to guide them by the hand into a discipleship journey with Jesus.

Although we have had a few technical teething issues with our "Becoming a Follower of Jesus," these have almost all been ironed out now, so I've started thinking about what other courses we could send out to the world in the name of the Gospel. I'm planning three more courses:

1. The Teachings of Jesus – Through His Parables;
2. The Teachings of Jesus – Through His Miracles; and
3. The Teachings of Jesus – Through the Sermon on the Mount

Can you imagine the good these courses could do for the Kingdom! They will be written in simple English for a global

audience, and they will focus on the love of God for his children, and on the provision he has made for their salvation.

There's simply nothing at all like these resources available anywhere, and certainly not for free! Let me share with you a secret: GNU is in discussions with a major Christian ministry who can't wait to use the first course we've written to help bring people to faith in Jesus.

I'll let you in on another secret: I'm not just talking about and planning the next steps! I've already started writing the courses!

As you support GNU through your prayers and your gifts, the Holy Spirit is continuing to open more doors for an even greater impact for this ministry in the world and in people's lives.

P.S. If you haven't taken a look at our first course, "Becoming a Follower of Jesus," you can see it online here:

<https://www.goodnewsunlimited.com/courses/becoming-a-follower-of-jesus/>

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ, Senior Pastor, GNU**

THE GOSPEL CONTINUES TO SPREAD IN INDIA

Viewers of GNU TV in India have donated land to build two more Christian churches, so precious souls in needy villages can learn the precious message of the Gospel.

And that's only part of the story! In the last two years, God's warrior in southern India, Pastor Joseph Usala has built five more churches, and another three are under construction. These simple buildings are testimony to the power of the Gospel to give hope to people who previously had none.

They are called Good News Divine Centres because the services they reflect the full spectrum of Christianity and Pastor Joseph's commitment to a practical gospel—one that demonstrates Jesus' principle of "Feed my sheep." The people to whom he ministers are poor; they receive simple food along with the message of the Gospel.

So committed to this work is he, that he takes out personal loans to build the churches. They are simple, functional

and cost-effective structures that will hold around 55 to 60 people. He also continues to establish care centres for the old, neglected and most needy in the community.

He has been training the group of volunteer lay Pastors, who have stepped up to help him in his ministry, which has grown too large for him to manage alone.

Pr Joseph continues: "Where we have built the churches, there are many people whose lives have been changed by accepting Jesus. Drunkards, prostitutes, people young and old without purpose, hope or joy in their lives have been transformed in Christ. These churches help and inspire them to keep faith in Jesus, even in the face of trouble caused by local populations hostile to Christianity. I pray that we can do more for Jesus."



Pastor Joseph trains volunteer pastors in the Gospel and how to share it.



Another simple church building takes shape, using local and volunteer labour, standing witness to the power of Christianity in yet another Indian village.

Taking Jesus' instruction to "feed my lambs" literally as well as spiritually.

my gift to do the work of Jesus

Eliezer, I want to give a gift so GNU can share the powerful good news of the Gospel with the world.

...lives are being changed in Christ.

▼ Pastor Joseph

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Please follow the instructions on the reverse, cut along the perforation, and return this slip to GNU in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.



From Eliezer TO YOU

Dear Friend

I was reading recently that today in the world there are somewhere between 2 billion and 3 billion people who have never heard the Gospel.

The numbers are sobering. 90% of these unreached people live in parts of the world that are resistant to the Gospel. There are more than 4,000 people groups that are less than two percent Christian, and there are more than 500 people groups worldwide who have no Christian presence and no one even trying to reach them. The country of India, for example, has almost half a million villages with no Christian presence. Every day, 150,000 people die, almost half of them without ever having heard the message of salvation through Christ.

All of this assumes that where there is a Christian presence, the people are actually being taught the Gospel, and not some kind of works-based religion, or distortion of what the message of Jesus actually is. Sadly, this is probably all too often the case.

How can any true follower of Jesus read this in a cold and dispassionate way? Doesn't your heart break, as does mine for all those who live and who die without Christ? How are we ever going to reach them? I can tell you with certainty that we aren't going to reach them by simply sitting in our lounges at home, even by sitting in our churches. As Jesus commanded, we have to "Go"! We have to take action. I am privileged to be part of a global ministry, made up of believers from around the world, that every month is reaching more and more people in every nation of earth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I can never stop saying thank you enough to all of you for your commitment to the great message of Jesus, which we must share with all, before he comes.

Grace and Peace

KEEP GROWING IN YOUR LOVE FOR JESUS *(from Page 1)*

right direction. Now keep going. Keep growing in your love for me." The secret to personal growth is to keep growing. We always need to keep moving in the right direction, and often we wonder just what direction is.

Jesus explains it to Peter. The key is to keep growing in your love for him. And the key to understanding this conversation that Jesus had with Peter, is that just when you realise that you're close to getting there, Jesus is there to tell you that you need to go deeper still.

"Loving Jesus" isn't just some religious or mystical thing which has nothing to do with the real world. Instead, this passage suggests that the more that you grow in love for Jesus, the more opportunities that you will find for helping the weak, the vulnerable, and the lost. These are Christ's sheep.

That's the ultimate secret of personal growth.

▶ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ, Senior Pastor, GNU**

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