THE AMBASSADOR'S QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The Courtroom of the Gospel of Christ

Condensed Trigger Edition · The Seven Volition Testing Points of Romans 1:18 – 3:26

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us..." — 2 Corinthians 5:20

A companion to Keith's Romans Survey — the preaching of the gospel of Christ for our establishment

The Gospel of Christ
enjoythebible.org/gospel

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— The Foundation —
The Power of God Is Resident in the Gospel

The power is not ours — "It's not our wit. It's not our own intelligence." Paul functions through this section like a prosecuting attorney, and God has already left every man without excuse. Your part is to "let that word and the doctrine resident within the details of the gospel effectually work in that individual."

Before You Enter the Courtroom

The light of God-consciousness is already in the person you are speaking to, whether he admits it or not. God Himself put it there, and God Himself declares it is there. He may deny it, holding the truth in unrighteousness, but it is there, because God says it is. You are not creating the light in him — ***you are confronting him once again with the light God has already given.***

> [19] Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.
>
> **— Romans 1:19**

And that same word must first be effectually working in you, the ambassador. Before you ever enter the conversation, take God at His word and believe what He has said — you lean not on your own persuasion, but on the word of God itself, received not as the word of men, but as the word of God, which does its own work in everyone who believes it.

> [13] For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
>
> **— 1 Thessalonians 2:13**

When He Says, "That's Only What This Book Says"

The light of God Consciousness "saturates all men." God gives the knowledge of Himself to every man through the creation itself — His eternal power and Godhead clearly seen by the things that are made. God Himself puts it there.

So when a man says, "That's only what this book you call The Bible says," do not expect him to think it is right — "At least not at this time." Ask him at least to give "an honest hearing to the rest of what The Bible says." His thinking The Bible is not right "is simply part of the 'ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.'"

He already knows that God is — "Creation demands a Creator, and you know that full well" — and in his heart of hearts he knows it. Hold him to that light. He may out of hardness of heart continue to reject it, or out of honesty of heart "honestly consider the challenge, and even change his mind."

Two Things Never Change

THE GOOD NEWS you offer once he sees himself "worthy of receiving God's wrath":

"[24] Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: [25] Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood... [26] ...that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." (Romans 3:24–26)

THE ONE CONDITION — never more than this:

[1] "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1) — To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is to depend completely upon what He has done, and not in any way upon yourself.

The Case at a Glance

The prosecution moves in order — know the pleas in the order you will most likely hear them, from the most common to the most desperate. Except at God Consciousness, each tract concludes with the same free gift — Romans 3:24–26, received by faith alone (Romans 5:1). But at slander and blasphemy, "God's appeal to him ceases."

VTP	The plea / response you meet	Where you move him
1	"There is no God."	To the light God already gave through creation — without excuse (Rom 1:18–20).
1·S	Sufferings — "Why me?"	To their source — "the bondage of corruption because of sin" (Rom 8:21–22); creation still proves God (Rom 1:20).
2	"God is a God of love; He'd never cast me into hell."	To seeing he deserves the wrath of God (Rom 1:18, 29–32).
3	"I'm better than others / give me a fair deal."	Off other men, onto God's perfect righteousness (Rom 3:23; 2:3–4).
4	"It's not my fault" — ignorance or privilege.	No respect of persons; without excuse (Rom 2:12–29).
5	Scorn, ridicule, or blaming God.	Every charge dismissed; his damnation just (Rom 3:8).
6	Nothing left to say.	Guilty as charged; every mouth stopped (Rom 3:9–20).
7	"Too good to be true / what about these verses?"	The free gift, rightly divided; believe (Rom 3:21–26).

About This Guide

This Quick Reference Guide follows the gospel presentation taught by Keith R. Blades — the seven major Volition Testing Points encountered in the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16–3:26).

It is based on his 40-page booklet, *Enjoy The Bible Ministries® Gospel Tracts — A Unique Set of Gospel Tracts Based Upon Romans 1:18–3:26 Designed to Assist You In Your Ambassadorship For Christ*.

Booklet, tracts & teaching: enjoythebible.org/enjoy-the-bible-ministries-gospel-tracts

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VTP 1 God Consciousness — Romans 1:18–20

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — The man who tells you there is no God. He says modern science has settled the matter, that evolution is true, that his life is the chance product of cosmic matter over millions of years, and that when he dies he will simply pass out of existence.

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **The wrath of God is being revealed right now — deserved, held back in grace, and declared every time the gospel is preached. Not executed yet, but real and coming.**
- **The issue was never ignorance; it is the truth held in unrighteousness.**
- **God has revealed Himself — His eternal power and Godhead are clearly seen in the creation; creation demands a Creator.**
  - *Professes a god, but not the God of The Bible? Ask, "Could you possibly be worshipping the wrong God?" Followers of other religions are "just as sure."*
- **He holds the truth in unrighteousness — he knows, but he is "rejecting, resisting, or opposing" the light. He is without excuse.**
- **The question to raise — "You need to think about what is going to happen to you when you die." Then ask:**
  - *"Take a few minutes and honestly consider what the consequences will be for you if you are wrong in what you believe."*
- **To the one who denies it — "But what if you're wrong?" He cannot afford to be wrong about this one thing.**
  - *He cannot prove God does not exist — neither can any scientist or philosopher; at best he has chosen to believe it. Hold him to the one thing he cannot afford to be wrong about, and rest the case on the light God has already given.*

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

> 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
> 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.
> 20 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 Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
>
> **— Romans 1:18–20**

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

Appeal to any honesty of heart in him. Hold him to the one thing he cannot afford to be wrong about, and rest your case on the light God has already given through creation. You are not trying to win an argument — you are setting the light of God-consciousness in front of him once more, and leaving him to answer God.

SUPPLEMENT TO VTP 1 · THE SOURCES OF SUFFERINGS

"Why Me?" — Three Sources of Sufferings

Romans 8:18–39

A Word Before You Begin

This is not one of the seven testing points. It is a supplement from Keith's studies Personal Tribulation, Suffering for Godliness Sake, Essential Doctrines — Sufferings, and Romans Survey (Lesson 14), taught to members of the Body of Christ.

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — He is going through sickness, disease, accident, or crime — and he cries out to God, "Why me?"

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **Every suffering comes from one of three sources — in Paul's order:**
- **1. The sufferings of this present time — sickness, disease, accident, crime — which we experience "along with all men, even unjustified men," because the world "is still under the bondage of corruption because of sin."**
- **God does not shield believers from them — "That's not one of His operations in this dispensation of grace"; they are banished only "in the fulfillment of God's program with Israel."**
- **2. The sufferings of Christ — "produced by the satanic policy of evil" and "directed against the members of the church, the body of Christ" (Romans 8:35).**
- **3. Your own plain stupidity — "you can avoid and should avoid" these.**
- **The proof of God still stands in creation — "Creation demands a Creator."**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

— Romans 8:21–22

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

— Romans 8:35

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

— 1 Timothy 6:9

20 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 Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

— Romans 1:20

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

Do not promise him a shield from these things — "It's not part of God's program in this dispensation of grace to shield you from those things." Give the three sources as taught, in Paul's order: the sufferings of this present time, the sufferings of Christ, and "your own plain stupidity." Remember that this doctrine is taught to members of the Body of Christ. Then confront the man "once again with the light of God Consciousness" — "Creation demands a Creator."

VTP 2 Wrath Consciousness — Romans 1:18–32

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — A different person — not an atheist. He acknowledges that God exists, but he opposes the truth that "the wrath of God" is really against him: "I believe that God is a God of love, and that He would never cast me, or anyone else, into a hell or a lake of fire."

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **"The wrath of God" is real — he needs an escape from it "before it is too late."**
- **All men have an ungodly genealogy — "ungodly descendants from an ungodly line."**
- **Let God describe the human heart — he qualifies for the wrath of God.**
- **He cannot make himself righteous — no works, rites, or ceremonies.**
- **Then give the good news — a free way of escape.**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

— Romans 1:18

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful...
28 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;

— Romans 1:21, 28

ROMANS 1:29-31 — God names each charge against man: (it only takes one to be guilty)

unrighteousness	fornication	wickedness	covetousness
maliciousness	envy	murder	debate
deceit	malignity	whisperers	backbiters
haters of God	despiteful	proud	boasters
inventors of evil things	disobedient to parents	without understanding	covenantbreakers
without natural affection	implacable	unmerciful	

32 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.

— Romans 1:32

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

Do two things, in order. First, do not let a man dispute his own worthiness of wrath, or the wrath itself. Hold the mirror of God's own word in front of him until he admits the wrath of God is justly against him. Then, the moment he sees it, do not leave him there — set before him the escape God freely provided in His Son, and ask him to believe.

VTP 3 — The Self Defense of Relative Righteousness

Romans 2:1–11

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — His pride rises and he reaches for his first and most common defense: "I am better than they are." One says he is not perfect but is a good person on the whole. Another wants a "fair deal," to be weighed against how others have lived. Another says he has made his peace by turning over a new leaf. Every one is the plea of relative righteousness.

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **Not whether he is good — but whether he is perfectly righteous.**
- **A fair deal would condemn him — the standard is God's own perfect righteousness.**
- **Judged "according to his deeds"? Then the standard is patient continuance in well doing — perfect and unbroken.**
- **He cannot make his own peace — no new leaf undoes past sin.**
- **The perfect righteousness he needs, God gives freely.**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

3 And thinkest thou this, O man... that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 ...not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

— Romans 2:3–4

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by **patient continuance** in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil... 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good... 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

— Romans 2:6–11

19 ...that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

— Romans 3:19

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

— Romans 3:23

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

Take away the first and most natural hiding place a man has — the comparison of himself with other men. Move the standard off of other people and onto God Himself, until he sees that even his best righteousness falls short of perfect. The moment he sees it, set before him the perfect righteousness God gives freely in His Son, and ask him to believe.

VTP 4 The Self Defense of Extenuating Circumstances

Romans 2:12–29

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — He looks for some circumstance unique to himself that he hopes will excuse him, or lessen his guilt. It comes in two opposite forms: the plea of 'disadvantage' ("I didn't know any better"; "No one ever taught me about God's law"; "I wasn't brought up in a Christian home"); and the plea of 'advantage' ("I've been a good church-goer all my life"; "I have a Christian heritage. I'm not some sort of idolatrous heathen."). Often it comes out simply as: "It is not my fault."

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **God judges without respect of persons.**
- **The ignorant Gentile pleads, "I didn't know — no one ever taught me God's law." But the work of the law is written in his heart; his own conscience bears witness, and "God will use your own conscience to testify to the contrary."**
- **The favored Jew pleads his 'advantage' — "We did have the law," as though God saw "some natural difference between us and those Gentiles." But the doers of the law, not the hearers, are justified, and the true Jew is one inwardly. Until this plea falls, he will see no reason for Messiah to suffer, nor be ready to weigh whether Jesus is the Christ.**
- **He is without excuse — no one to blame but himself.**
- **But the charge itself can be dropped — not lessened or excused, but removed altogether, because Christ bore the guilt and penalty in his place.**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.
12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;
13 (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.
14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:
15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

— Romans 2:11–15

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

Close off the next hiding place — the excuse. There are "no legitimate extenuating circumstances in God's sight." Show him that God judges without respect of persons, so neither his ignorance nor his privilege can stand, and he is left without excuse. The moment he stops making excuses, tell him the very guilt he cannot excuse, God is able to remove — freely, in His Son — and ask him to believe.

VTP 5 Stubborn Negative Responses — Romans 3:1–8

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — By now the man is backed into a corner, and his responses turn stubborn and even desperate. Some grow hard and scornful — they scoff at what God says, ridicule it, slander it, or turn away in indifference and apathy. Some grow bold enough to turn the charge back on God Himself, suggesting God would be unrighteous or unfair to judge them at all.

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **The pleas now turn desperate, even charging God as unrighteous to judge.**
- **Let God be true, but every man a liar — every charge against His justice is a trumped-up lie (Romans 3:4).**
- **The charges turn stupid, then blasphemous — "my sin only helps God's glory… let us do evil, that good may come."**
- **Whose damnation is just — at slander and blasphemy, "God's appeal to him ceases."**
- **Then "cease and desist" — your ambassadorship to that individual is over.**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

— Romans 3:4

IN PLAIN TERMS

God is true in everything He does, and He exposes men as liars — "all these charges are simply trumped-up lying charges trying to squirm out of the wrathworthiness."

7 For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?
8 And not *rather*, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

— Romans 3:7–8

IN PLAIN TERMS

This is about ones who "scorn what God says, or scoff at it, or ridicule it, or slander it, or even just plain respond with indifference or apathy to it." And Paul says that for people like that, their damnation is just. It is deserved.

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

— 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9

IN PLAIN TERMS

These verses show "what damnation from God is like" — for ones who "do not respond in a positive manner to 'the gospel of Christ' when they hear it."

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

For the moment a man turns stubborn and even turns on God: simply show him, from God's own word, that every such charge is dismissed and his damnation would be just. If he scoffs or is indifferent, God "is still offering to save you from eternal damnation" — appeal to him "before it is too late." But if he slanders and blasphemes, your ambassadorship to that individual is over: "God expects you to cease and desist."

VTP 6 — Full Prosecution of Being "Under Sin" and "Guilty Before God" — Romans 3:9–20

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — Every plea has been met and answered. He could not plead his goodness, his ignorance, any extenuating circumstance, and his desperate charges against God were every one dismissed. There is nothing left for him to say. Paul, who has functioned through this whole section like a prosecuting attorney, now rests his case and reads the verdict.

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **Let the verdict stand — all under sin; all the world guilty before God, worthy of His wrath.**
- **Read it from Israel's own scriptures — none righteous, no, not one; no fear of God before their eyes. God declared the Jews "sinners equal to the Gentiles" from their own scriptures.**
- **Every mouth stopped — every plea has failed; nothing he could say has any standing left to be said.**
- **By the law is the knowledge of sin — it confirms the condemnation; by its deeds no flesh is justified.**
- **No hope from himself — unless God provides a way. Then give the good news his silence has prepared him to hear.**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

9 What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

— Romans 3:9–11, 19

23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

— Romans 6:23

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

For the moment a man has nothing left to say: the prosecution "rests its case." Let it stand exactly as God reads it — all the world guilty before God, no escape for anyone. Then, at the very point of his deepest need, give him the good news his silence has prepared him to hear, and ask him to believe.

VTP 7 The Good News of "The Redemption That Is In Christ Jesus"

Romans 3:21–26

THE PERSON YOU WILL MEET — Now his mouth is stopped, and he stands guilty before God with no defense and no escape of his own. It is exactly here, and only here, that the gospel becomes good news to him. Until a man knows he deserves wrath and cannot save himself, he will not think he needs this. But now he is ready — so give it to him plainly.

YOUR ANSWER — AT A GLANCE

- **But now — instead of the sentence falling, the righteousness of God without the law is manifested and offered as a free gift.**
- **By faith of Jesus Christ — He did it all as our substitute redeemer; it rests on His work, not ours, unto all who believe.**
- **Redemption paid the price, His blood the propitiation that satisfied God's justice — because He paid the complete price, He was "raised again for our justification." So God is just AND the justifier.**
- **The whole debit paid in full, His perfect righteousness credited the moment you believe — nothing can be added; just believe.**

THE ANCHOR PASSAGE

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.
27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.
28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

— Romans 3:21–28

IN PLAIN TERMS

What About Those Other Verses?

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Matthew 24:13 belong to Israel's kingdom program — not to us today.

The salvation in view includes physical salvation from the judgments of the Lord's day of wrath, and water baptism marks out the ones to be physically saved. God tells you how you are justified today. He speaks through Paul, in Romans, where the gospel of Christ is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16). It is faith alone, in Christ alone, with nothing added.

WHAT THIS TRAINS YOU TO DO

Do two things together. Give the good news freely and fully, holding nothing back, for the man is now ready to hear it. And guard it — refusing to let any work be added, whether his own notion that it is too simple to be true, or a verse pulled out of Israel's program and laid upon him today. Set the Lord Jesus Christ before him as the One who did it all, and ask him to believe.