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**CONFIDENT**  
HOPE

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# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

## THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

## THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

## EDITORIAL STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin**, Publisher  
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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



## THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

## THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 1

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 1:8-17

*Key Verse: I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*Romans 1:16*

### Romans 1:8-17 (NRSV)

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.

9 For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers,

10 asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you.

11 For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—

12 or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

13 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often

intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles.

14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish

15 —hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

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**VOCABULARY**

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- **Witness** – One who testifies about Christ.
- **Mutually** – Felt or expressed by each other or with regard to the other.
- **Debtor** – One who owes something.
- **Barbarian** – Anyone who was not a Greek or who did not speak the Greek language; foreigner.
- **Gospel** – The teachings of Jesus Christ and the story of his life.
- **Righteous** – Always behaving in accordance with the Word of God.

**INTRODUCTION**

“**T**hanks, Mrs. Howard, for fixing breakfast for me before I left.” Mario ate his last bite of pancakes and wiped his mouth with a napkin.

“Mario,” Mrs. Howard put her glass of orange juice down. “I thought you were going to attend church with us this morning. Usually any of my children’s friends who spend the night on Saturday in our house, attend church with us on Sunday.”

“Well, Mrs. Howard, I don’t mean to be disrespectful but I told Caleb that I am not religious. Neither are my parents. So I’ll be going home,” said Mario.

“Mom, I told Mario it is okay. You and dad would understand.” Caleb glanced down at his plate.

“We are not okay with this, Caleb. You know our rules.” Mr. Howard stared intently at Caleb. “Mario, we have rules in our house. We expect them to be obeyed. Do you believe in God?”

“No.” Mario got up and put his dishes in the sink.

“If you come to church with us, you might enjoy the youth service. It is filled with praise music and sermons with a message addressed to youth.”

“No, thank you. Maybe next time I’ll go.” Mario heads toward the kitchen door to leave.

“Okay, Mario. We’re praying for you,” said Mrs. Howard.

*When is the last time you spoke to someone about your faith in God? Why is it important for our friends and family members to have a personal relationship with God?*

### BIBLE STORY

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Rome to introduce himself and to make a clear declaration of the faith. God is our only hope for salvation. “We are saved by grace through faith in Christ (and his finished work). Through him (Christ) we can stand before God justified (not guilty).” Paul had heard of the church in Rome but had never been there. The church was established by Jews who had come to faith during Pentecost (Acts 2). They spread the faith on their return to Rome and the church grew. Paul planned on travelling to visit them before he went to Spain.

In Romans 1:8-17, Paul declares the power of the gospel. But first he gives thanks to God through Jesus Christ for the faith of the believers in Rome (v. 8). The believers were mainly Gentiles (non-Jews). Their great faith was known throughout the world, Paul told the Romans, and God had knowledge of his constant prayers for them. He hoped God would permit him to visit (v. 10).

Paul’s desire to visit the Romans had a dual purpose (vs. 11-12). First, he yearned to help the believers understand the meaning of

the good news about Jesus. And secondly, the believers could offer him fellowship and comfort. Our mutual faith gives us as Christians the opportunity to give and receive encouragement from one another when we fellowship together. By the completion of Paul's three missionary journeys, he had shared the Gospel with mainly Gentiles (v. 13). Many came to be saved through his witness.

Paul felt he owed a debt to Jesus Christ for saving him (Acts 9). So his life's passion and ministry was to spread the good news of salvation through Christ with the world (vs. 14-15). The message was for Jews and Gentiles, civilized and uncivilized, educated and uneducated. He was never ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ because he understood it had the power to save anyone (v. 16). Paul declares in Romans that once we are saved we are freed from the power of sin, freed from the domination of the law, and freed to become like Christ and discover God's limitless love.

*Who did Paul believe needed to hear the Gospel (be specific)? Why was Paul excited about sharing the Gospel with the world? Does your church conduct outreaches to witness to others?*

### LIFE APPLICATION

**R**omans 1:16 states, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also the Greek." The scripture is divided up into three parts. Put into your own words each part's meaning.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel." \_\_\_\_\_  
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"It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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“To the Jew first and also the Greek.” \_\_\_\_\_

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It is not the sole responsibility of the pastor to share the good news of Jesus with the world. We, who are saved, are called to witness to the world too. After we have experienced the forgiveness of our sins, have been filled with the Holy Spirit, and transformed, why keep this good news of salvation to ourselves? It may be hard at first to share the Word with others, but there are other Christians who can help you – the Evangelism Department, the missionaries, church school teachers, the pastor and ministerial staff, as well as other youth who boldly share the Gospel.

Think about the ways we presently witness and share the Gospel. Compare and contrast the way Paul witnessed versus the current ways we witness. Discuss the most effective ways to witness to other youth.

Paul witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We witness by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### SUMMARY

**P**aul wanted the Roman believers to know that salvation is for anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ. We are transformed by the power of God. But we have to let God use the spirit that dwells within us to witness to the world. This week use social media to share the Gospel with your friends, family, and enemies. Everyone

needs to hear about God's love for us being manifested through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This good news needs to go viral around the world.

### **CLOSING DEVOTION**

**Closing Song:** "How to Reach the Masses (Lift Him Up)" (AMEC Hymnal #221)

**Prayer:** God, we thank you for sending Jesus to save us. His sacrifice demonstrated your love for us. Enable us through the power of the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.