

## **Responses to Grace [3]: Romans Revisited**

### **By Bob Young**

#### **Introduction**

In his book, *In the Grip of Grace*, Max Lucado tells a parable to help us understand the early chapters of Romans. I want to acquaint you with the parable with a brief overview.

Lucado uses this parable to suggest four ways people respond to the grace of God:

- Hut-building hedonist, Rom. 1
- Fault-finding fundamentalist, Rom. 2
- Rock-stacking legalist, Rom. 2:1-11
- Grace-driven Christian, Rom. 3-4

We see how this works out when we revisit Romans.

#### **Romans Overview: two or three major sections**

Salvation 1—chapters 1-8

Salvation 2 (Jews)—chapters 9-11

Practical—12-15 (+16 closing)

#### **Outline**

Greetings, praise, purpose

1:17-3:20

Great introductory section to first part

What happens if you misunderstand God?

3:11, 3:12a, 3:12b

End up with godless living, godless judging, godless religion

BUT...

There is righteousness from God, apart from law, to which the OT was pointing all along.

God never intended that the world stay in darkness, denial, doubt—without his presence.

God never intended that Jews become judgmental toward the Gentiles.

God never intended that Jews seek relationship with him through legalism based on law.

God always had another plan, and that is what Paul begins to unfold in this section.

#### Chapter 3

- **The solution is God**
- **Law and justice meet at the cross**
  - **The dilemma of grace**
  - **The direction of grace**
  - **The decision of grace**

#### Chapter 4

- **Credit where credit is not due**
  - **Too risky to be true**
  - **Too new to be true**
  - **Too good to be true**

## Chapter 5

- **The blessings of grace**
  - **We have peace**
  - **We have a place**
  - **We have a promise**

## Chapter 6

- **The results of grace accepted**
  - **A new life**
  - **A new relationship**
  - **A new hope**

## Chapter 7

- **I've already messed up!**
  - **He still claims us**
  - **He still guides us**
  - **He still rescues**

## Chapter 8

- **Real life!**
  - **Because of his power**
  - **Because of his purpose**
  - **Because of our position**
  - **Because of his presence**
  - **He protects, he provides, he loves!**
  - **That is the story of grace!**