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## Don't Mistake Simple for Easy

**DAVID HOWARD:**

Have you ever noticed how simple Biblical truths are often the most profound?

Bret recently asked me to review a new curriculum and I was reminded again of the importance of distinguishing between the past, present and future tenses of salvation as presented throughout God's Word. To understand the simple basics of the Scriptures as God intended them to be understood adds so much significance to life.

The apostle Paul expressed His concern for the Corinthians in the following verse: "But I am afraid that ...your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

It is a joy to be a part of a group that understands the simple truth of walking by faith as the means of accomplishing anything of eternal significance.

The joyous conundrum of the spiritual life is that God designed walking by faith to produce works that accomplish His purposes. Works do require effort; however, that effort comes from actively depending on God and His resources. God and works that matter for eternity go together like air whistling over the wings of a bird. It is true that the bird is working hard to fly but only because the wind is creating the airfoil to provide lift.

Sometimes the simple things of life are the hardest to accomplish. Have you ever tried to work out consistently every day? It's simple, but it's not easy!

DM2 offers a simple inductive and systematic approach to understanding and teaching God's Word. But don't mistake simple for easy! Communicating the simple truths of God's Word is a lot of hard work that can be accomplished only as God works through us. Only as we live by faith can we work in a way that pleases God (Hebrews 10:38).

The reason DM2 is effective is because of the many faithful people who put life's highest priority on understanding the truths of God's Word and teaching them to others. DM2 is committed to the hard work of sharing God's Word with others, but we know it is only by abiding in the Vine that anything of eternal significance can be accomplished (John 15:5). As J. B. Stoney so aptly put it, "It is a great thing to learn faith: that is, simple dependence upon God."



## Workshops 2015:

October 1-4  
October 7-12  
October 12-16  
October 13-25  
October 15-17  
October 24  
November 2-6  
November 9-13  
November 12-22

**AUBURN, CA: Romans 1-8**  
**LVIV, UKRAINE: Life of Christ**  
**SOUTHEAST ASIA: Panorama of the Old Testament**  
**LVIV, UKRAINE: TBD**  
**VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA: Romans 1-8**  
**SPOKANE, WA: Women of the Word**  
**LIBERIA, AFRICA: Romans 1-8**  
**SIERRA LEONE, AFRICA: Galatians**  
**ZAMBIA, AFRICA: Life of Christ**

## Prayer Requests:

Over the next couple of months teams are heading to Brazil, Ukraine, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Liberia, California, Washington and Canada. We just completed workshops in West Virginia, Colorado, Tennessee and Paraguay. In the near future we hope to send teams to Panama, Uruguay, Bolivia, Zambia, Hong Kong and Venezuela. Translation of our materials continues in German, Bemba, Zomi, Chin, and Ukraine among others. We are developing workshop materials for the Women of the Word curriculum, Hebrews, Colossians, 1 Corinthians and Daniel. On the negative side, giving has been down in the last several months. We would appreciate your prayers for God to provide what is necessary to see these works progress in the way He desires.

[www.DM2USA.org](http://www.DM2USA.org)

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# Bolivia, Paraguay, and Green Beans...

## Larry Depue:

After nearly 500 km on my motorcycle, I was tired when I arrived at the church in Tembladeras for the pastors' meeting. But when I got there, there were no pastors. They had postponed the meeting by one day and had not been able to tell me. I phoned around and found out that Pastor Juan Iriarte was just down the road at his parents' farm, so that's where I went to spend the day and night until the meeting the next day.

When I arrived at the farm, everyone was down in the field picking green beans. I joined them and soon began to hear from Pastor Juan about their recent trip to Paraguay. He, Pastor Ismael, Pastor Angel, and a layman had been invited to Paraguay to teach Romans. They had taken the long bus ride down across the arid Chaco into Paraguay to the capital city of Asuncion. There they were met by Pastor Miguel and taken by car to their destination about a 1½-hour drive. Pastor Miguel was starting a new work, therefore the congregation was small and the accommodations a little rustic.

The teaching was scheduled to be from 7pm to 10pm every evening, so the first night they promptly got underway. By the second evening, word had gotten out that some evangelicals were in town and local thugs came and began shouting and throwing stones. The rocks made a lot of noise when they hit the tin roof. Since there were no walls on the new church, the teaching was stopped to pray for safety and to encourage the women in the group to get in the middle of the meetinghouse. Thankfully that was the only night the thugs came.

Pastor Miguel had invited the pastors from Bolivia because he wanted Bible truth taught, but there was a group in his church that was involved in Spiritism. On the third night, after the clear teaching of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone, the man leading this group came to the teachers and said he couldn't stand it any longer. He said that if what they were teaching was right, he was not saved. He told about how he had been living a miserable life. He hadn't been able to sleep much for the last six months. He said that in his bedroom at night he experienced weird phenomena claiming to see snakes crawling on the wall. That night he put his faith in Christ and the next night he testified to how well he had been able to sleep.

Also present in the teaching each night was a pastor from a large church in Asuncion. He was impressed by the teaching and began to beg the pastors from Bolivia to come to his church. He said he would invite many pastors and the group would be larger. Besides that, his church was big and it was air-conditioned. But the pastors from Bolivia politely told him that God had brought them to this small church and that the reason they were teaching him was so that he could return and teach his own congregation along with the pastors from his city. He said he understood and would be back to hear the rest of the teaching when they returned.

The people of the town where the little church is located are very devoted to their religion and much of the local economy depends on the crafting and sale of images. The Bolivian pastors felt like God had directed them to this needy place to share the truth of His Word with these people. The

teaching was well received and many understood a clear Gospel for the first time in their lives.

By the time Pastor Juan finished his account of the trip, my back was aching but my heart was bursting. The four of us had picked 450 pounds of green beans in one day. As I lay down on the ground under my tarp that night, this was my prayer: 1. Thank you Lord for DM2 and the clear teaching of the Gospel that DM2 has brought to Bolivia. 2. Thank you for these pastors and many others who have been disciplined and are in turn discipling others. 3. Lord, please strengthen Pastor Miguel and that small group of believers in that dark place in Paraguay. Thank you for praying for DM2 Bolivia.

# Denver, CO

## Mark Perkins:

This past Friday and Saturday we taught the Making Disciple Makers' curriculum, along with a couple of bonus topics from the Romans appendix: "Five People You Should Know," and "If You Live a Consistently Carnal Life, What Happens?" Eight teachers participated in the teaching. All did an excellent job. Everyone improved noticeably from previous times, and we learned from every single one. Included among the teachers was a political science professor from Colorado Christian University, a homicide detective, an amateur mountaineer of extraordinary alpine accomplishments, and a real estate assessor. All those who taught have an interest in making disciple makers.

We had a full house with over twenty-five attendees, including seven college students representing four universities. As a result of this curriculum, we expect at least one campus ministry and a women's Thursday night Bible study to begin soon. One of the young men who attended is looking forward to going on trips and getting involved in more teaching opportunities. He hopes to join us in British Columbia next month for the teaching of Romans 1-8. Another of the young men has an interest in South Asia.

Yesterday at our church picnic a young woman who grew up as a member of our church insisted that we bring a team to her church in Wyoming. We plan to set up dates for that this week. And we are hoping to get the Romans curriculum translated into Mandarin Chinese and open new doors in that vast and densely populated country.

As always, I find myself eager to see who will step up next with a desire to participate in the teaching side of disciple making. Please pray for more teachers, the necessary logistical support, and new venues to keep up the momentum. We trust God each step of the way as we grow in fulfillment of our Lord's Great Commission.



# Eastern Washington University, WA:

## Lindsey Murray:

Lakeland Village Hospital, in the small town of Medical Lake, WA, brings together disabled patients, caring staff, and around thirty resident college volunteers. These students are housed for free across the street from the hospital in return for volunteer hours each week. During my first four years as a CIRV student at Lakeland I did what most high school graduates do: I learned to balance a job, volunteer hours, attend college, and of course have a good time on Friday nights!

Around the time I turned 22, I decided to start following Jesus whole-heartedly and was baptized. A few weeks later, I received a phone call from two CIRV students I had never met before named Rachel and Jessica. They invited me to their women's study on the book of Romans. I was pretty shocked when two complete strangers called to ask me to study the Word of God with them. I thought it was pretty bold, but I said yes.

Now, two years later, Lakeland Village CIRV Apartments has been transformed from a place where students party on the weekend to a place where the Gospel runs rampant. Rachel and Jessica's boldness in the name of Jesus has become infectious. Bible studies are available for the students several days a week. Rachel and Jessica even inspired me to begin my own DM2 study at my new home in Spokane.

I never imagined I would lead a Bible study, but with the help of my new friends and DM2, I have the materials and the confidence to share the true gospel of grace with others. These days my Friday nights look a lot different than they used to. Each week I look forward to fellowshiping and learning with the ladies God leads to my doorstep.

## Amber Walker:

I graduated from high school in 2014. During my senior year and the following summer I decided to give everything up to the Lord and serve Him rather than just being a "halfway Christian" and only giving God certain areas of my life. I was planning on moving out of my parent's house and far enough away that I would have to find a new church and make new friends. For most of the summer, I was really praying for some Christian friends. It was a little ways into the fall quarter when I was attending a meeting at the place where I volunteer, that God answered my prayer. At the end of the meeting, a girl announced that she and her roommate were holding a weekly Bible study and if anyone was interested they could talk to her. That's how I met Rachel and Jessica. Through meeting them and attending Bible study, God answered my prayers and richly blessed me with many great Christian friends. At the time, they were studying the book of Galatians. This was the first time that I was introduced to the idea of eternal security. Later Rachel and Jessica helped put on a Romans conference in Spokane, which I attended. It was very eye opening for me, and I learned a lot. The Lord has really worked in my life this past year. I thank Him so much for allowing me to meet Rachel and Jessica. I have grown a lot in my relationship with the Lord. I can't wait to see what God does in this coming school year!

# Inwood, WV

## Keith Nazworth:

Several weeks ago, I had the great pleasure of being a part of a Romans workshop at my home church here in West Virginia. It proved to be a huge encouragement both to the teachers (including myself) and to those who attended. I am amazed and grateful at how well the teaching was received by everyone, especially the sometimes-difficult sections that seek to draw out the clearest biblical distinctions possible between what the Gospel is and is not. As long as I have been a part of this church, I've sensed the deep desire to know and communicate God's grace, and now the leaders have been equipped with more clarity and confidence. They have repeatedly expressed their thanks for the workshop.

For me personally, I am always encouraged and energized whenever I study through Romans during DM2's in-depth workshops, whether as a student or a teacher. I seem to need a constant reminder of the absolutely underserved nature of God's kindness, and I'm so excited for the future that we will have with our Savior, our King and (according to Hebrews 2) our Brother. He bought for us by his death what we could not earn, to give us a standing in Heaven that we could never deserve. Salvation really is salvation.

# Tullahoma, TN

## Virginia Hathorn:

What a great blessing it was to study the Book of Acts with the DM2 ministry teaching team. The Pleroma Church of Tullahoma, TN hosted the conference. Pastor Clay Ward, a member of the DM2 teaching team along with Bret Nazworth, Brad Rigby and several others led the conference. Although each of these men have their own teaching style, they are all very knowledgeable of the Scriptures and are well-spoken. I am thankful for the DM2 team and their leadership here and around the world and pray that the Lord will continue to bless this wonderful ministry.

I am also looking forward to our continuing study of Romans in Mississippi. I hope and pray that everything will work out for us to have that study time at the end of October.

## Dianne Rigby:

I was thankful to have the opportunity to be taught through the Panorama of the New Testament by seven men from DM2. They taught the study verse by verse and even explained the meaning of Greek words. I was pleased to return home and share what I experienced with my spouse and friends. I enjoyed the conference immensely. I enjoyed taking notes and filling in the blanks in the booklet provided. These faithful men of God teach and share the Word in all parts of the world. They are truly ambassadors for Christ. I am looking forward to the next DM2 study.