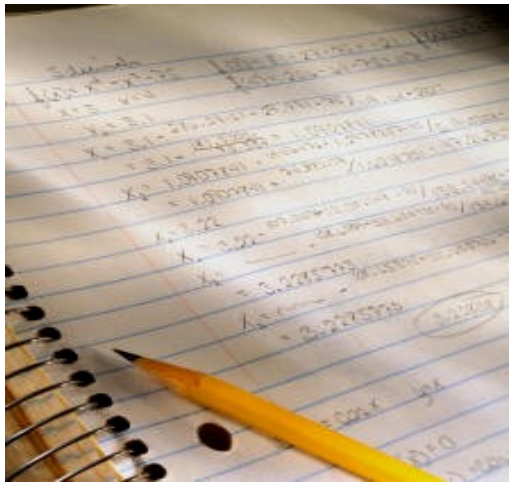
"Class is in session!"

By Roberto Bruno

This past week I began a new Spanish class at the community college. The beginning of a new class is exciting, nerve racking and annoying all at the same time. There is the anticipation of learning new things (imperfecto de indicative, preterito, futuro…) and the dread of all the work it is going to take to actually learn and to pass the class. In school it always depends on the student to do all the work to achieve the **A**.

Some think that salvation and a relationship with God is the same as the classroom. We have to do all the work and the homework. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"*. It is the grace of God that saved us. The work that Jesus did on the cross is what set us free but many think we are still under the Ten Commandments *(The law)*. There is a list of rules and regulations we must follow and if we fault in one God will be angry with us and probably is fixing to punish us. That mind set is wrong at various levels and unfortunately many have suffered under it. *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."* Galatians 3:10-11. "The just shall live by faith" that is music to my ears because by nature I am a list keeper. Give me a list to follow and I will follow it to the **T** but if I can't I'm devastated. The beauty is my performance is not indicative on how God feels about me. Jesus' work on the cross is sufficient for us. He has done away with the curse that has condemned us. *"Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")* Galatians 3:12-13. The Ten Commandments were established to show us that we need a Savior and He "*...so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"*. John 3:16.

Go ahead put your pencil down and close your notebook. Save your excuse about "how the dog ate your homework" and rejoice that Jesus loves you so much He was willing to do all the work.