

Justification and Righteousness

Lesson #13

Romans 3:1-31

Paul's argument in chapter 2 showed that righteousness before God is not external, based upon heritage as descendents of Abraham, or in ritual, keeping of the Law, rather it is inward from the heart. The person who is truly righteous is one who has the Spirit of Christ within.

Questions - Romans 3:1-8

1. Continuing with an imaginary opponent, Paul put forth his argument about justification and righteousness in a series of questions. What advantage is there in being a Jew? And, what value is there in circumcision? How did Paul answer these questions? (Romans 3:2)
2. Paul's next question was related to Jews who do not have faith; does that nullify God's faithfulness? What was his answer? (Romans 3:4)
3. What does the unrighteousness of man do? (Romans 3:5a)
4. What was Paul's answer to his question, *"Is God unjust in bringing His wrath on us?"* (Romans 3:6)
5. Paul's next question, *"Doesn't my falsehood cause God's truth to abound and increase His glory?"* If that were true, then what is the next logical question? (Romans 3:7)
6. If sin is no longer an issue, then what is Paul being slanderously reported as saying? (Romans 3:8a)
7. According to Paul, what do those who slander others deserve? (Romans 3:8b)

Who is Righteous? - Romans 3:9-20

8. Paul already clearly laid out his argument that both Jew and Gentile are held accountable to God, but then returned to the question of whether the Jew is somehow better. What was his answer? (Romans 3:9)

9. Who is righteous? (Romans 3:10)
10. Who is it that understands God and seeks Him? (Romans 3:11)
11. Who does good? (Romans 3:12b)
12. In verses 13-17 Paul used a series of Old Testament quotes to show how all (Jew and Gentile) have turned from God. (Romans 3:12a) What is the heart of the problem? (Romans 3:18)
13. To whom does the Law apply? (Romans 3:19a)
14. Who is accountable to God? (Romans 3:19b)
15. Who will be declared righteous by observing the Law? (Romans 3:20a)
16. What is God's purpose for the Law? (Romans 3:20b)

How is One Made Righteous? – Romans 3:21-31

17. Using verse 21:
 - What is the good news?
 - Who or what testifies to this truth?
18. How is this “*righteousness from God*” obtained? (Romans 3:22a)
19. Paul was again very clear to show that God's righteousness is available to all who believe. Why not just to the Jews, to those who have God's Law? (Romans 3:22b, 23)

20. What was God's plan for justification? (Romans 3:24)
21. Using Romans 3:25:
 - What did God present Jesus as?
 - How do we appropriate that?
 - What was God's reason for this?
 - Why was this necessary?
22. As God of justice, in His judgment, who is the one He will justify? (Romans 3:26)
23. Paul questions their boasting about observance of the Law. What did Paul say was more important than the Law and why? (Romans 3:27, 28)
24. God is the God of whom? (Romans 3:29)
25. What final point did Paul make in verse 30?
26. Paul then asked the next logical question that begins his next topic of discussion. Using verse 31:
 - What is that logical question?
 - What is the answer?

When it comes to understanding God and how we are brought into a right relationship with Him, from this letter Paul wrote to the Romans, we will highlight verses that are important for us to know. These verses are called "The Roman Road to Salvation."

Today we came to the first of those important verses, Romans 3:23, "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" If you have not already done so, memorize this verse and its reference to share with others why we need a Savior.

"Roman Road" to Salvation: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9 & 13
Romans 5:1, Romans 8:1 & 38-39

Terms Used in Romans

The theme of the letter to the Romans is "The Righteousness of God".

Atonement	Refers to God's act of dealing with the primary human problem, sin. In Hebrew it contains the idea of the removal of punishment that is due to sin and includes God's change in attitude toward the sinner, which is to turn away His wrath (propitiation).
Glory	Refers to the unapproachable and immediate presences of God.
Grace	Speaks of God's loving actions toward humankind. This love is most clearly demonstrated to humans through God's selfless giving of Jesus to enable people to enter into a loving relationship with God. Unmerited favor – what God has freely done on our behalf.
Justified	Legal term where the judge declares the defendant innocent ("just as if I'd never sinned").
Law	Torah – Paul refers to the first five books of Moses as "The Law".
Law & Prophets	Short hand for the entire Old Testament called "Tanakh" <i>Ta</i> Torah (teaching, law) <i>Na</i> Nevi'im (prophets) <i>Kh</i> K'tuvim (writings)
Propitiate/ Propitiation	An offering that turns away God's wrath. God has provided that offering that removes the divine wrath, for in love the Father sent the Son to be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for human sin. "The love which prompted God to send His Son was always there. While the Father's holiness and righteousness and justice required that there be a payment for sin, His love provided it. The propitiation is the fruit of the Father's divine love." Millard Erickson, <u>Christian Theology</u> pg. 817, 818
Redeem/ Redemption	The process of liberation (as a slave) through payment of a price.
Righteous	Legal term which means God's own divine holiness and justice.