
Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. (Romans 3:19)

I. No One is Righteous

- a. Paul the argument that no one can claim righteousness based on Law or association. He outlines his argument in in chapter 3 and expounds upon it in chapters 9-11.
- b. Jews would have rejected the idea that they were also guilty before God. They could argue that God chose them, gave them the Covenant, the Law, the prophets, and the Promised Land.
- c. Did God abandon the Jews because they failed to uphold the righteousness found in the Law?
- d. Absolutely not, their faithlessness did not cancel out God's faithfulness. God keeps His word. (v.4)
- e. Just because you are blessed and chosen does not mean you can act any way you want to.
 1. Our righteousness brings out God's righteousness. The more unrighteous a criminal is, the more righteous God appears. God will not throw us away when we disappointment.
 2. Would God bring righteous judgement on His own people?
- f. Paul presents an x-ray study of a lost sinner from head to foot. (vv. 13-18)
- g. Because God is righteousness and not a respecter of persons, He must render judgement on those who lived with and without the Law. (2:12)(v.20) *Live by the law, die by the law.*

II. The Free Gift of Salvation

- a. Because God is righteous He offers the free gift of Salvation to everyone who calls on His Son. *For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*(Matt 12:37)
- b. Read v. 21. Whether you are Jew or Gentile, God put forth His righteous plan for sinful humanity. (vv.22-26) Where the Law excluded, faith included.
- c. God's wrath is not an emotion like human anger. It is a settled disposition of His holy character against sin. Sin and righteousness do not and cannot coexist.
- d. To forgive sin without the cross would call into question the righteous character of God.
- e. God could not offer a cheap forgiveness. Look at the cross. Jesus suffered the cruelty of crucifixion to show that God takes sin seriously.
- f. Righteousness is based on *faith in* Jesus and we are justified by that *faith*.
- g. Justification (Salvation) *given by his grace as a gift through faith in Christ.* (v.22)
 1. God puts the righteousness of Christ on our record instead of our sin. No one can change this.
 2. Justification does not make us righteous, but God declares we are righteous. It is a legal matter.
 3. Justification is an act not a process. Every believer has the same right standing before God.
- h. Sanctification is the process where God makes the believer more like Christ day by day.
- i. Redemption—deliverance from sin and its penalties, by the payment of a price. This price was Christ's blood on the cross.(v. 24)
- j. Propitiation (*purge, cleanse, reconcile, make atonement*) —Christ's sacrifice satisfied God's holy law, making it possible for God to forgive sinners and remain just Himself. God needed the cross to avert and absorb His wrath against sin.
- k. Christ became the *person* of propitiation. Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of being the atoning sacrifice for sin.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Remember no sinner seeks after God. It is God who seeks the sinner. (Gen 3:8-10; Luke 19:10)
- b. The cross was God's initiative. God did not start to love us because Christ died; Christ died because God already loved us.
- c. What God demanded, Christ personally provided. He did it all for us!
- d. Because of our faith in Christ, God sees only His child and not the sin.