

New Community Bible Study & Teaching
“All Sinners, God’s Patience & His Amazing Grace”

Romans 3:21-31

Session 6

We’ve titled our study series after the Book of Romans...

**“God’s Plan To Move Us From
Lost Ones
To Saved Ones To Sent Ones”**

Structure Of The Book:

Our Outline of the Book

1. Introduction & Theme Of Romans (1:1-17),
- 2. The Doctrine of Justification (1:18—5:11),**
3. The Doctrine Of Sanctification (5:12—8:39),
4. God’s Plan & Purpose For Israel (9:1—11:36),
5. Living The New Life As A Jesus Follower (12:1-15:13);
6. Conclusions & Greetings To Friends (15:14—16:27).

Session 6- Study:

“All Are Sinners, God’s Patience & His Amazing Grace”

Romans 3:21-31

Introduction & Overview

There is a question that most people ask- in public or in private.. And it is absolutely critical to the future of each person’s life:

- It goes like this...

How can someone be made right with God?

- It’s a great question!
- **It’s the one Job asked God! He wanted to know!**
- It says... **We are not right with God as we now sit!**
- **The rich young ruler in Matt 19 asked that question**
- **After Jesus fed the multitudes- the crowd asked: What shall we do that we may work the works of God? (John 6:26-27)**

Throughout history...

- **Mankind’s been asking that question since the Garden of Eden!**
- **Religion asks that question because death, lostness, loneliness, emptiness, meaninglessness are all felt by every culture at every point in time!**
- **Biggest question ever! Something has to be done to change things!**
- We might have some **thoughts or reasoning** about it...
- But if we’re wrong or if our way to get right with God is not enough
- **Then...We are still stuck...in our unrightness...**
- **In reality... headed for hell...**
- **Still separated from God... hopefully searching for Him!**

In Our Study so Far... We've Looked at:

- The Purpose for writing this letter- Rom.1:16-17
- We've seen- Denying God Makes a Culture Crumble- Rom.1:18-32
- We've seen- even our secret life, inner thoughts and attitudes of the heart- betray us & makes us subject to God's Judgment- Rom.2:1-16
- We've seen that Religious People are Doomed B/C of Sin- 2:17-29
 - o That the Doctrine of Justification by Faith-
 - o Begins with our lostness B/C of our sin!
 - o In Need of a Savior... that exists outside of ourselves!!

- Last week- Nathan showed us: Jew or Gentile- All Sinners-3:1-20

So...Paul has made the case... that so far...

- This sin thing... **separates everyone from God**...even if you are a Jew... connected to the history of God's story of Salvation...
- **It's not enough**-the Law of God- knowing it, having it- is not enough
- **No one can keep it perfectly**- that is the standard of righteousness
- **Sin stops us**- from reaching God by ourselves- through works!
- **And there are no good guys or gals**- all sinners!

Now, Paul takes us to the heart of the Justification issue...

- And we will see it played out here!

Read: Rom. 3:21-31- Read it!!!

Verse 3:21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

- See a **BUT... or a THEREFORE...** you ask: What it is there for?
- **Look back to verse 3:20...**

20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. Rom.3:20

BUT... means a contrast is coming... a marvelous one!

- The story so far has been... dark, all are sinners, all doomed apart from God... no one escapes the label sinner, all have offended God by their very sinful natures & actions, religious or not!
- And God's wrath is what awaits the sinner!

- BUT... God has brought into existence... another plan for mankind!

- This plan... is first of all... Apart From The Law- The entire OT!
 - o "nomos" is Heb. for: **apart from-** apart from legalism, human effort, the OT rituals... God's divine revelation to date!
 - o **The spirit of legalism was for sure dead by God's declaration**

Because now...

- **God's righteousness** would be made available to mankind...
 - o **Apart from the entire OT Law-** no human efforts involved!
 - o **And...** everyone could find it... no Jewish heritage needed!
 - o **No background in the Law was necessary to find it!**
- **But...** the Jewish scripture **ALWAYS** had this righteousness in mind- the Jews just settled for something less!

Jesus pointed that out in John 5:39... The Scripture problem:

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me."

“The Mosaic Law (the 10 commandments) was not given as a means to *achieving* God’s Righteousness, but as a means to describe God’s Righteousness and showing the *impossibility* of men’s living up to it.”

“The Mosaic sacrifices were not prescribed as a means of atoning for sin (although they were ordered by God to be done as a temporary covering of their sins) but of symbolically pointing to Jesus Christ who Himself becomes the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world!” Heb.10:10,14

22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- **The source of this righteousness:** comes thru faith in Jesus!
 - Separate from legalism or law keeping
 - It’s built on the revelation of Jesus Christ!
- **The means of obtaining it:** thru faith by all who believe!
 - **No one is excluded:** all are welcome to believe!

Big point here is:

“Righteousness Is Acquired By Faith in Jesus Alone!”

Question: Is there such a thing as “False Faith”, even in Jesus’ Name?

- **John wrote down Jesus' words** to that effect concerning those with a superficial faith in Jesus & who did not have saving faith!

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

- **Jesus was saying:** "obedience to my teaching is evidence of *true faith*, where continual disobedience is evidence of false faith!"

Matt.7:20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter."

But now... concerning sin & access to God's righteousness:

- There are no exclusions: Jews & Gentiles-all welcome!

- Here is the reason why...

Rom.3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- Acts 13:39- Read this!
- Gal. 2:16- Read this!

All have the sin problem, *all fall short* of making it to God as they are!

Yet...

- **John 6:37** says All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

...and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- **Justified freely... Doctrine of Justification by Faith!**
- **Redemption- another theological word & important idea:**
- **Here is what it means:**

That Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of Israel's messianic hope and that, in Him, the long-awaited redemption has arrived.

Redemption means...Deliverance of humankind from its state of alienation from God. It has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 4:25 ; 2 Cor. 5:18-19).

In the New Testament, redemption requires the payment of a price, but the plight that requires such a ransom is moral not material.

Humankind is held in the captivity of sin from which only the atoning death of Jesus Christ can liberate.

Redemption- has a marketplace transaction nature to it. Something paid for, something bought back.

New Testament writers sought to represent Jesus' saving activity in terms that convey deliverance from bondage.

Most of these words infer deliverance from captivity by means of a ransom price paid.

Great news... Justification and redemption from sin through faith in Jesus Christ is now the means to be brought near to God!!

And... it applies to the whole world!!

25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,

- This is huge...Christ was God's idea of course...
- Jesus was the sacrifice, **the blood atonement for sin**

Atonement- another theological term.. DEFINE:

Atonement theologically speaks of God's acting in human history to reestablish the original relationship between God and man by dealing with sin. **To atone means to make amends, to repair a wrong. Biblically, it means to remove the guilt of man.** The Old Testament atonements offered by the high priest were temporary and a foreshadow of the real and final atonement made by Jesus. Jesus atoned for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). This atonement is received by faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

That the Bible's central message is atonement, that is, that God has provided a way for humankind to come back into harmonious relation with him, is everywhere apparent in Scripture. From the first stories in Genesis to the last visions of Revelation, God seeks to reconcile his people to himself.

The English word for atonement originally meant “at one-ment” or “at one with” like being in harmony with someone and in this case it means to be at one with God through the atonement that was made possible by the substitutionary death of Christ on our behalf. The Hebrew Word for atonement is “kipur” with the verb form being “kaphar” and means “to cover, purge, make reconciliation” and “to cover with or coat with pitch.” (Yom Kipur- Day of Atonement)

Jesus literally “ransomed” us back from Satan who was our god and our father... dying on the cross for us while we were still not only sinners but still his enemies! (Romans 5:8); 1 John 4:10

Vs 25...because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

- **Interesting passage... he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished...**
- **Here is what it is telling us... it’s a beautiful story:**

God in His patience (forbearance)... 2Pet 3:9...

- He showed grace to Adam & Eve & to subsequent mankind
- By passing over for a time... the sins of so many!
- It was a sign of grace... a patience God demonstrated!
- Before the flood... 1600 years had passed...since the GOE!
- But then... after 1600 years: the flood brought judgment!

God stated: Gen 6:5-7- Read That!

- **Even in the Flood... God saved 8 people- to start again!**
- **He withheld judgment for a period of time...**
- **But not forever... He will punish sins!**

1 John 2:2 says...

But...He showed His righteousness at the present time...

- **By the incarnation of Jesus- The righteousness of God!**

- The NT Good News Is... Jesus is here, He died for Sins!
- **God paid the price for the sins against Him!!**

That's why Paul and Believers...love Him so!!!

God is *Just*... the sins committed had to be paid for!

God just made Himself- in the Person of Jesus...

- Be the One who paid the price for Sins!!

1 Pet.3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

Eph.2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. 28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, 30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. 31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Paul wraps up a thought here for us...

- **There is no boasting in works anymore if ever!**
- **There is only rejoicing in...**
 - The Law or *revelation*... that salvation... requires faith!
 - Faith in Jesus alone!
 - Justification from Sin- comes by faith in Jesus alone!
- People are now clearly justified *apart* from works of the Law!
- You can't earn your own salvation no matter how much you know or how hard you work at it or how religious you are!

Justification is by faith in Jesus alone- that is apart from the Law!!!

God for sure is more than the God of the Jews! Gentiles too!

The circumcised & uncircumcised have the same *chance* at justification by faith in Jesus!

Last thought is a question: Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

What's Paul mean here?

He means... **The Law is not nullified** as un-useful by the coming of Jesus and salvation by faith in Him alone!

- Rather... Jesus' coming, death and resurrection confirms the propose and *effectiveness* of the Law!

The law showed us... that no one could keep it perfectly!

- And as such all are guilty of their sin...
- The Law tells us we are!
- The Law needs a Savior to fulfil it! And Jesus is that Promised One!
- Isaiah 11:10

Next Time- Part 7- Romans 4:1-25... George Deur

6/23/19

“Abraham- Finding Righteousness Thru Faith?”

Close and Pray