

Undeserved Righteousness – Romans 3



MEMORY VERSE: ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...”
Romans 3:23-24

DAY 1 ROMANS 3:1-8 — The Advantage of the Jew

1. What was the advantage of being Jewish in Paul’s day? vv. 1-2
2. How does a person’s unfaithfulness affect God? Why? vv.3-4
3. Explain the faulty human reasoning Paul describes, as well as the consequence of this way of thinking. vv. 5-8
4. What instruction is given to anyone entrusted with the oracles of God, the Scriptures? Why is this so important? 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5

LEARN THE TRUTH

Why is it so difficult to fully grasp the fact that we cannot do anything to save ourselves? It makes human sense that we must earn God’s favor, but in truth, we cannot. Ask God to give you great faith in Him and in Christ’s perfect sacrifice for your sin. Put your faith and hope in Christ alone!

DAY 2 ROMANS 3:9-18 — None Are Righteous

5. What does everyone on earth have in common? v.9
6. Paul quotes from the Psalms, Isaiah and Ecclesiastes in verses 10-18. In your own words, describe a person who is under sin.

7. Why do you think these verses include such vivid imagery?

8. What is root cause of sin? vv. 11b, 12a,18

DAY 3 ROMANS 3:19-20 — The Purpose of the Mosaic Law

9. What is the purpose of God's law?

10. What is the law not able to do?

11. What do you think God wants to happen when one understands the purpose and limitation of His law?

12. Why do you think it is natural to try to earn God's favor by obeying the law?

13. Compare the danger in relying on obedience to God's law for salvation with the blessing of relying on Christ. See also Galatians 3:10-14

DAY 4 ROMANS 3:21-26 — Justified by Grace Through Faith

14 What is the one and only way for any human to be righteous in God's sight? vv. 21-22

15. Why is this the only way to be saved? v. 23 and Romans 6:23

16. How does justification by grace work? vv. 24-26

17. Why was a blood sacrifice required to fulfill the law? Hebrews 9:22-28

18. According to the Hebrews passage, what is the difference between the Old Testament sacrifices and Christ's sacrifice on the cross.?

19. How does Christ's death on the cross confirm both the witness of the Law and Prophets (v. 21) and the fact that God is both "just and the justifier?"
Isaiah 53

2 Corinthians 5:21

DAY 5 ROMANS 3:27-31 – The Law of Faith

20. What happens to boasting about our good behavior when we place our faith in Christ?
1 Corinthians 1:30-31
21. Why can't our good deeds make up for our guilt? James 2:8-10
22. When you fall into the trap of trying to justify yourself or earn God's favor, what does it look like?
23. Why is our faith, whether Jew or Gentile, enough to justify us and uphold the law?
24. Since good deeds can't save us, where do they fit into the Christian life? Ephesians 2:8-10
25. Considering all the Scriptures in this lesson, what does it mean to you to have faith in Christ?

LOVE THE TRUTH

What a relief it is to know that we cannot possibly earn our way to heaven! It is hard to imagine that justice is served when God calls sinners righteous through faith in Christ, but it's true! Praise God that He did not have to overthrow the law in order to save us. He saved us and still upheld the law!

Romans 3

Undeserved Righteousness

In chapter 2, we learned that being a true Jew refers to an inward condition of the heart, by the Spirit, rather than bloodline or the act of circumcision. Paul now asks if there is any advantage in being a Jew by birth. The answer is “yes,” because they were given the oracles of God- the Law of Moses. With this blessing came the responsibility to make God known to people outside the Jewish faith. They not only failed to do that, but also failed to remember God’s love, faithfulness and mercy in their own history. The same can be said of people today who have the whole Bible yet fail to embrace it, let it equip them for God’s service, and teach others. Fortunately, God’s faithfulness is unaffected by the unfaithfulness of people, and His truth does not change because of people’s sin and lies.

One might then ask, “If a person’s unrighteousness and faithlessness do not affect God’s righteousness, why is the one who continually practices sin condemned? Can’t God work through one’s sin to draw another to Himself?” Of course He can, but the one who lives to practice sin has actually rejected the truth of God’s love and plan for salvation and so deserves God’s wrath.

Salvation by faith is an actual legal standing before God, received through relationship with Christ. God does not overthrow the law, nor does He compromise truth by calling us righteous by grace through faith. In fact He upholds the law and truth because Christ legally paid the price for our sin. Think of parents who bend the rules to justify their child’s behavior. Changing the rules does not make the child ok. Lowering the bar does not make one innocent. God did not lower the bar or change the rules. He upheld the law because Christ was the sinless blood offering who legally atoned for our sins. God is both JUST and the JUSTIFIER.

Does this mean God’s law is useless today? If it were He would not have had to uphold it. But we are free

from constantly striving to live up to it. During Paul’s day, false brothers secretly slipped into the church in order to undermine the freedom people found in Christ so that they might put them back into slavery under the law. (Galatians 2:4) At the same time, some people were so glad that their sins were forgiven that they “presumed on God’s grace” and lived as though they could sin whenever they wanted because they knew they’d be forgiven. We must walk the path of faith, which is one of freedom. We do fall off the path into legalism on one side or license to sin on the other, but God’s grace gets us back on the straight and narrow path.

WALK IN TRUTH



It is delusional to think enough good deeds can make up for our sin. Without faith in Christ, even our best efforts are eternally useless. Salvation comes only through Christ and nothing else. But sometimes we believers need to remember that we also cannot “maintain” our salvation by good works. That too comes down to faith. Jesus Christ is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

If you trust in Him, He will transform you from the inside out, and good works will start to come to you naturally. You will come to agree with the Psalmist who said, “Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me...I hold back my feet from every evil way in order to keep your Word...How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.” Psalm 119:97-104