

### Scriptures for Today: Romans 3:19-31 – The purpose of the Law; God’s offer of a full pardon.

### Title of Today’s Message: The Case of the Guilty Sinner (Pt 2) – *An unexpected offer is set forth.*

#### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we arrived at Romans chapter 3 where God concludes that there is *none* RIGHTEOUS, there is *none* that UNDERSTANDETH, there is *none* that SEEKETH God, everyone is gone out of the WAY and become UNPROFITABLE, and there is *none* that DOETH GOOD – not **ONE**. In this perfect legal document, we were also reminded that when we approach the Bible, we must forsake any human wisdom that goes contrary to it. God does not ask you to stop thinking. He simply asks you to believe His truth above all things. In this chapter, God asks an incredible **17** questions! Today, we will finish Romans 3 with the most glorious news that ever-reached planet earth from heaven. As the sinner stands in God’s courtroom in despair, and at the darkest moment when the Law has done its work of **DEATH**, when there is nothing to look forward to but the suffering of eternal damnation, there comes a **most unexpected offer**. God will lay open to the public for full inspection an offer of a full and complete **PARDON** and acquittal of crimes against Him and the deserved punishment of an eternal hell! The **price** is **FREE**! The **requirement** is that the sinner BELIEVE on Christ and TRUST His blood for the remission of sins – by **FAITH**! In this, the righteousness of God is revealed as beautiful and glorious!

#### PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul says WE **KNOW** the Law condemns THE ENTIRE WORLD as **guilty before God**. Vs. 19-20

- ✓ When **judged** by the Law, the entire world – *not just Jews* – is **speechless** and **guilty**.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 *“But we know that the law is good, IF A MAN USE IT LAWFULLY; Knowing this, that THE LAW IS NOT MADE FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN, **but for the lawless and disobedient, FOR THE UNGODLY and FOR SINNERS ... According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, WHICH WAS COMMITTED TO MY TRUST.**”*

**Guilty** Criminal; not innocent; having knowingly committed a crime, or having violated a law by an overt act or by neglect, and therefore, being liable to punishment.

**NOTE** The Ten Commandments leave the sinner speechless before the Judgment bar of holy God. Paul says to the Romans, *“We know this!”* This truth was clear and obvious to Paul, and he wanted all the Romans – believers and unbelievers to know it. As we have learned, both Jews and Gentiles have broken God’s Law and rejected the light God has given to them. The truth of Judgment and the corresponding guilty verdict that hangs around the head of every man was a key element of Paul’s preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ✓ *Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight**:*
- ✓ For BY THE LAW is the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN.

Romans 7:7 *“Is the law sin? **God forbid**. Nay, I had not KNOWN SIN, but BY THE LAW: for I had NOT KNOWN LUST, **except the law had said, THOU SHALT NOT COVET.**”*

1 John 3:4 *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is transgression of THE LAW.**”*

**Justify** To prove or show to be just, or conformable to law; to pardon and clear from guilt.

**NOTE** The Law does not help you get to heaven, it leaves you HELPLESS. It does not justify you before God, it leaves you guilty, condemned, and ready for sentencing. The standard for heaven is perfection. The Law fulfills its purpose – to bring men to the knowledge of sin.

2. Paul reveals **the righteousness of God** and the **FREE GIFT of justification by grace.** Vs. 21-31

- ✓ The good news and offer is introduced in the context of a reminder of utter hopelessness.

Ecclesiastes 7:20      *"For **there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, AND SINNETH NOT.**"*

NOTE      This is the first time "*Jesus Christ*" shows up since Romans 1:16! God has concluded ALL under sin that He might have mercy upon ALL. It is important to see that the righteousness of God which is BY FAITH in Jesus Christ is UNTO ALL and UPON ALL them that believe!

- ✓ *Being JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE through the redemption that is IN Christ Jesus:*

Romans 5:15-18      *"But not as the offence, so also is THE FREE GIFT... even so **by the righteousness of one THE FREE GIFT came upon all men unto justification of life.**"*

**Grace**      The free unmerited love and favor of God; the spring and source of all God's benefits to us.  
**Redemption**      Deliverance from bondage or liability to any evil, either by money, labor or other means.

NOTE      Oh how the world does not comprehend the astonishing OFFER God is making to all people! A free pardon of guilt and sin! Hello! "*Amazing Grace*" is sung by even non-Christians. But consider the words! *Amazing grace – How sweet the sound – That saved a wretch like me!*

- ✓ *Whom **God hath set forth** to be a PROPITIATION through faith in his blood, to declare **his righteousness for the remission of sins** that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

1 John 2:2      *"And HE IS the PROPITIATION for our sins: and **not for ours only**, but also FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD."*

1 John 4:10      *"**Herein is love, not that we loved God, BUT THAT HE LOVED US, and sent his Son to be the PROPITIATION for our sins.**"*

**Propitiation**      The atonement offered to God to assuage His wrath and satisfy the demands of His justice.  
**Remission**      Pardon; forgiveness; that is, the giving up of the punishment due to a crime.

NOTE      God lays open to the public His OFFER – the blood of Jesus Christ has been accepted by God as a SATISFACTORY PAYMENT for sins! A complete pardon of crimes and punishment – being MADE FREE – is the offer! "*At Calvary*" describes this well ... *Mercy there was great and grace was FREE; Pardon there was multiplied to me; there my burden soul found liberty!*

- ✓ *To declare, I say, AT THIS TIME **his righteousness**: THAT HE MIGHT BE JUST, and THE JUSTIFIER of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Romans 1:17      *"For **therein is the righteousness of God REVEALED from faith to faith ..."***

NOTE      God's righteousness exceeds comprehension! Yet, we can see it through His OFFER to the world of HIS SON! The penalty of sin was met in Jesus. God can now be JUST! That makes "*universalism*" (the false idea that you can reject Christ and go to heaven) clearly UNJUST!

- ✓ *Do we then make void the law through faith? GOD FORBID: yea, we establish the law.*

Gal 3:24      *"THE LAW was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be JUSTIFIED BY FAITH."*

NOTE      God ends with a final question. Considering this incredible OFFER of a free gift of grace by faith in Christ, has faith superseded the law? is it now useless? A misunderstanding of the Law's design may lead to this thinking – but Paul says, "*God forbid!*" The gospel of Christ does not replace the Law; it fulfills it by allowing the Law to convict the sinner and bring him to Christ! **The Law will forever by the structure on which the gospel is built.** It is not a question of one or the other; IT IS ONE BUILT ON THE OTHER. Paul has explained that the purpose of the Law is to prepare men to come to Christ that they might be justified by faith alone; and only in that capacity as forerunner of the gospel does the Law find fulfillment.