

# ROMANS

an invitation to the story that changes everything

## THE LEVEL GROUND

Romans 3 | February 22, 2026 | Pastor Maddie

### SERMON SUMMARY

In this message, Pastor Maddie confronts the deeply ingrained cultural myth that being a "good person" is enough. Drawing from Romans 3, she shows that our definition of goodness is fundamentally skewed because when God is the standard, every person, whether Jew or Gentile, churchgoer or not, falls short. The Law was never meant to save us; it was meant to reveal how desperately we need saving. But the good news of Romans 3 is that the same God who holds the standard also crossed the divide, becoming the atoning sacrifice through Jesus Christ so that we could be in right relationship with Him. Salvation is not something we earn through effort or moral performance; it is a free gift we can only receive by faith.

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Where do you most naturally default to thinking of yourself as a "good person," and how does Romans 3 challenge or complicate that self-perception?
- 2 Why do you think it is so easy to become numb or apathetic to the sacrifice of Jesus, especially for those who have grown up in the church?
- 3 Pastor Maddie explained that the Law was meant to reveal our sinfulness, not fix it. How have you personally experienced the gap between knowing what is right and actually living it out?
- 4 What stood out to you about the concept of atonement, and how does understanding it more deeply change the way you think about what Jesus did on the cross?
- 5 Paul says our right standing before God comes through faith, not works. Where in your life are you still tempted to perform, earn, or prove your way into God's favor?
- 6 As you participated in communion this week, which of Pastor Maddie's three postures (beholding, receiving, or giving thanks) felt most natural, and which felt most challenging? What does that reveal about how fully you have let the gospel actually land?