

01/30/22 Message

Part of Romansthe Life of Faith - the Power of Grace
January 28, 2022

Message: Without Excuse

Series: Romans

This is our third message in the series Romans: the Life of Faith – the Power of Grace.

As one of Paul's epistles (or letters), Romans is considered the greatest of all his letters. It's been called one of the most foundational documents of Christianity.

Introduction

Last week Paul made something abundantly clear to us. Regardless of the temptation(s) to sin or how we justify it, there is no excuse – because we know the difference between right and wrong. We know the difference between Godliness and sinfulness. We have no excuse.

—Pastor Chad

God is Impartial

Romans 2:1-11 (NLT)

1 You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.

2 And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things.

3 Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things?

4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers.

8 But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

9 There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile.

10 But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile.

11 For God does not show favoritism.

Notice what Paul says about God's impartiality:

- God will judge EVERYONE (2:6)
- God will give ETERNAL LIFE (2:7)
- God will pour out His ANGER and WRATH (2:8)
- God will not show FAVORITISM (2:11)

God's Law

Romans 2:12-16 (NLT)

12 When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it.

13 For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight.

14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it.

15 They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

Paul gets down to the basics when he tells them:

- Sin equals DESTRUCTION (2:12)

- Knowing is not the same as OBEYING (2:13)
- God will judge your SECRET LIFE (2:16)

Jewish Hypocrisy

Romans 2:17-29

Jewish Privilege

Romans 3:1-8

Power of Sin

Romans 3:9-20 (NLT)

9 Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin.

10 As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous— not even one.

11 No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

12 All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

13 “Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies.” “Snake venom drips from their lips.”

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

15 “They rush to commit murder.

16 Destruction and misery always follow them.

17 They don’t know where to find peace.”

18 “They have no fear of God at all.”

19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.

20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

In Romans 3:12-18, Paul quotes 7 Old Testament passages (6 of 7 are from Psalms):

- Romans 3:12 (cf. Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3)
- Romans 3:13 (cf. Psalm 5:9; 140:3)
- Romans 3:14 (cf. Psalm 10:7)
- Romans 3:17 (cf. Isaiah 59:7-8)

- Romans 3:18 (cf. Psalm 36:1)

Paul labels the problem in Romans 3:9...

- We are all under the POWER of SIN (3:9)
- The entire world is guilty BEFORE GOD (3:19)

Right With God

The solution to sin requires God because...

- All have SINNED (3:23)
- All fall short of God's glory (3:23)

Romans 3:21-31 (NLT)

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

24 Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

27 Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith.

28 So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

29 After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is.

30 There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

31 Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

Paul teaches us:

- God has shown us how to be RIGHT with Him (3:21)

Being right with God requires us to:

- Place your faith in JESUS (3:22)
- Believe that He sacrificed His LIFE (3:25)
- Believe that He shed His blood on the CROSS (3:25)
- Believe in Jesus (3:26)
- Base our acquittal on FAITH (3:27)
- Make things right with God through faith, not the LAW (3:28)

When we do this, when we make things right with God (when we are righteous in His sight)...

- We SEEK God (3:11)
- We do GOOD (3:12)
- We are TRUTHFUL (3:13)
- We CLEAN our tongue__ (3:14)
- We don't HURT others (3:15)
- We BUILD others up and have JOY (3:16)
- We find PEACE (3:17)
- We FEAR God (3:18)

It's not about the law. It's about believing that He sacrificed His life for yours. Believing that He shed His blood for you on the cross. Believing in Jesus so much that you change your life and you follow Him from this moment on... and you never stop until you reach heaven! That's what it's all about. He's done His part, it's up to you!

—Pastor Chad