

**For Memorization – Romans 1:16**

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first for the Jew and then for the Greek.”

**Misplaced Righteousness**

*The Big Idea: What if it wasn't the bad things you do that you need to repent from? What if you actually needed to repent from relying on the good things you do?*

The story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

**What Righteousness Is**

Righteousness should be seen functionally, not abstractly

Good and evil are abstract concepts

Righteousness and sin are better understood functionally than abstractly

Sin is what functionally ruins your standing before God

Righteousness is what functionally establishes your standing before God

Romans 3:23-24 as an example.

“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” – sin serves the function of ruining our standing before God.

“And are made righteous by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” – Jesus' grace makes us righteous and restores our standing before God

Therefore, misplaced righteousness means looking to something other than Jesus to function as that which establishes us before God

**How Misplaced Righteousness is a Recipe for Disaster**

Paul's misplaced righteousness

3:4-6 – His spiritual qualifications before Christ

3:7-8 – His view of those qualifications

Our misplaced righteousness

**The Only Source of Righteousness that Works**

Found in Him

*Our representative* – he is our righteousness, because his standing before God is given to us

*Our substitute* – he is the answer for our sin, because he removes the penalty of what would keep us from God

*Our security* – any other source of righteousness will be completely unreliable and leave us anxious and routinely disappointed

A Righteousness Not of Our Own

*The Great Equalizer* – This makes us all one in Christ Jesus

*The Great Humbler* – No one has a greater standing than another

Questions for Discussion

1. How is righteousness similar and yet different than goodness? What role does righteousness serve, functionally, in this passage?
2. Why is it hard to take all of your earthly personal righteousness and call it a load of dung? Why is that needed?
3. What are some of the good things you place your hope in, instead of Jesus?