

Good News for Bad People

February 19, 2023

Text: Romans 3:21-31

Introduction:

Big Idea: The dilemma between our injustice and God's perfect justice is only reconciled by God's _____.

Romans 3:21 "B____ n_____" – the difference between heaven and hell hangs on the meaning of those tiny words.

Trait #1-The righteousness we need is... _____ (_____) _____ [21]

- I need God's righteousness because in myself I HAVE _____!
- Righteousness is a relationship or state of being _____ with God -- unattainable on your own but possible through Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10)

Trait #2-The righteousness we need is... _____ from the _____ [21]

- To the observant Jew, this would be a shocking and troubling statement.
- Many religious people sincerely believe that their religious devotion can win God's approval—it doesn't.
- The Law was only a tutor it showed what God wanted; it couldn't compel obedience neither could it provide the inner "want to" that would actually change human behavior.

Trait #3-The righteousness we need is... received by _____ [22]

- Faith - is the instrument that links us to Christ.
- It is his righteousness that justifies us. It is his merit that provides a place for us in the kingdom of God. Faith links us to him, so that we participate in his righteousness in the sight of God. This righteousness is given to every person that trusts in Christ.

Trait #4-The righteousness we need is... for _____ [22-23]

- How can there be "no distinction?"
 - The answer is that when it comes to needing salvation, there is truly "no difference" between people. Since all are sinners, all need salvation.
- In a theological sense, God's glory is the perfection of all his attributes. But where do we see his attributes clearly displayed? We see them in the person of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, which is why Hebrews 1:3 calls Jesus the "radiance of God's glory." Our lives compared to the life Jesus lived "fall short."
- Justification - This is a legal declaration of righteousness before God. The terminology comes from a courtroom setting, and it means that we are not perfect, but God gives His righteousness to us.
- Grace - Unmerited favor, positional power. What I need but do not deserve!
- Redemption - This word comes from the slave market. To redeem means to "set free by the payment of a price." When we were slaves to sin, God paid the price and set us free from our slavery. The price was the blood of his Son. When a sinner trusts Christ, God releases him from the chains of sin and sets him free forever!

Trait #5-The righteousness we need is... based upon the _____ of _____ [24]

- Propitiation - This is the literal meaning of the phrase translated "sacrifice of atonement."

Trait #6-The righteousness we need is... provided by the _____ of _____ [24-25]

- Are

Trait #7-The righteousness we need is... a demonstration of _____ [26]

- Are

Truth Into Action:

1. I am all wrong, but Jesus Christ makes it all right!
2. I am unrighteous, but Jesus Christ is my righteousness!
3. I am worse than I can imagine, but Jesus Christ is better than I can fathom!
4. I am my problem, but Jesus Christ is my solution!
5. I am God's enemy, but Jesus Christ calls me friend!
6. I am a child of the devil, but Jesus Christ made me a child of God!
7. I am under the wrath of God, but Jesus Christ put me under the love of God.
8. I am a sinner, but Jesus Christ is my Savior!
9. I am dead, but Jesus Christ makes me alive!
10. I am headed to hell, but Jesus Christ is taking me to heaven!

Connect Card:

- Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, or are you trying to behave your way to heaven?
- How may we help & pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: One's view of God determines how you view yourself and the whole purpose of your life and all the problems, pains, and perils on the earth. Which version of God did you believe in as a child? Which version do you believe in now as an adult?

- Benevolent God -- This is the view that God is engaged but not judgmental.
 - Distant God -- This is the view that God is not involved or judgmental. Instead of being engaged, He's abandoned us, like an absentee landlord.
 - Critical God -- This is the view that God is not engaged but judgmental. Instead of a coach, He's a critic.
 - Authoritative God -- This is the view that God is engaged, relational, and involved in your life.
1. Regarding human sin, how extensive does Paul say that the problem of human unrighteousness extends in 3:23? Do you truly believe that this includes you personally before salvation? Discuss your answer:
 2. (v. 24-25) Are you working for a relationship with God, or are you working from a relationship with Him?
 3. Paul says that religious people try to earn righteousness with good deeds, traditions, and other human efforts in 3:27-28. Paul himself sought to earn righteousness through dedicated religious devotion. What works have you, and people you know, sought to use to earn for yourself right standing before God (e.g., baptism, speaking in tongues, suffering, tithing, serving, paying off karmic debt)?
 4. How is it a humbling relief to trust that, if you have Jesus, you have everything you need to be right with God? What burdens does this lift for you personally?
 5. List all the ways and times in this section of Scripture that explain how and why all we need for forgiveness of sin and a righteous standing before God is found fully and only in Jesus Christ.
 6. Define and discuss each of these words: Righteousness, Sin, Justified, Grace, Propitiation, Redemption