

Women's Bible Study – Teaching



Lesson 5 | Romans 3:9-31

The sinfulness of sin & righteousness of God

Name: _____

Date: _____

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, insight, and understanding as you study this passage. Begin by reading the full text above before working through the questions.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:9

What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

1. Ask your phone, “What is the Amplified Bible Version of Romans chapter 3 verse 9?” Read that verse, and then look up Gal 3:22 in your own version of the Bible. a) How do these two verses help us to better understand what it means to be “under sin” (v9, ESV) or “under the power of sin” (v9, NIV)? b) That being the case, how might this shape how you respond to someone you love who is trapped in their sin?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:10-20

As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” 14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

2. Paul goes on in vv10b-18 to argue for the universal reality of sin. Take a closer look at vv11 and 18. See also Rom 3:23. What do these verses teach us is the essence of sin?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

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3. Take a closer look at vv12-16. a) What point do you think Paul is making by citing all these Old Testament prooftexts that show how sin affects and is carried out by all these different parts of the body? b) Paul describes our sin affecting our words, actions, desires, and relationship with God. Which area is easiest for you to overlook in yourself?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

MY RESPONSE

(No question; space reserved for lesson notes)

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:21-25a

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith.

4. a) Looking back on all we've covered so far in Romans 1:1-3:20, how do you think the words "But now" (v21) represent a definitive shift in the direction of Paul's letter, especially in light of vv21-25a? b) What all do we learn about the "righteousness of God" from vv21-22a? c) How might the reality "But now...the righteousness of God has been made known" help you to reshape your thinking when you feel defined by a past failure, a current struggle, or someone else's opinion of you?

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MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

5. Just as Paul is arguing for the universal human reality of sin in vv10b-18, what universal reality is he arguing for in vv22-24? HINT: Notice what word is repeated three times – once in each verse.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

6. Consider these four verbs in vv21-24:

“the righteousness of God *has been made known*” (v21),

“this righteousness *is given* through faith...” (v22),

“for all...*are justified* freely” (v24), and

“through the redemption that *came by* Jesus Christ” (v24).

a) Are these verbs *active* (the person or thing at the beginning of the sentence *does* the action) or *passive* (the person or thing at the beginning of the sentence *receives* the action)? b) So who is doing the acting, and who is being acted upon? c) Why is this important, and how can we come to see and cherish this as a beautiful part of our salvation?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:24-26

... and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

7. In v24, we learn that we “are *justified* freely by his grace.” a) Look up Deut 25:1, Prv 17:15, and Rom 8:33-34 to learn more about justification. b) Now ask your phone browser to “Define the

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word justify, as used within the context of the Bible.” c) Synthesize what you learned from these verses and what your phone said to come up with a definition of justification.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

8. Verses 24-25 go on to explain how, or on what basis, God can go about justifying sinners freely by his grace. What two things, specifically, does Paul tell us are accomplished on the cross in vv24b-25a to undergird our justification?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

9. To truly understand what Paul is teaching us, we need to make sure we understand the terms he uses to describe what happened on the cross. a) Explain *redemption* by looking up Ex 6:6 and Mark 10:45. After doing that, ask your phone to “define the word redemption within a biblical context” to bolster your explanation. b) Explain *atonement*, or more precisely, *propitiation*, by looking up Heb 2:17 and 1 Jn 4:10. Then ask your phone to “define the word propitiation within a biblical context” to strengthen your explanation.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:24-26

...and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

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10. On the cross, Jesus not only accomplished our redemption and made atonement for our sins. a) What else did he accomplish on the cross, according to vv25b and 26? b) Does this sound like a private affair or a public one? c) Why do you think it is so important that he did this?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:25-28

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. 28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

11. What is the means by which we receive the redemption and atonement (and ultimately, our justification) accomplished on the cross? See the middle of v25 and v28.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

12. a) If we are *given* the righteousness of God through faith (v22), why do you think that means that all boasting (especially with respect to works of the law and how we perform) “is excluded” (v27)? See 1 Cor 4:7. b) What is one situation this week where you can practice looking away from how well you perform to looking more at Christ and relying on him?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES
