



ROMANS

LESSON THREE
A PRICELESS GIFT

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YOUNG



REFLECTION

- God's ways are not your ways, and you will never fully understand the mysteries of his justice, holiness, and power.
- What would you do with humanity if you were God?
- How would you respond to your sinful creatures?
- Think about how God has worked in your life recently.
- What about your salvation is still a mystery to you?



CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

AN INTRODUCTION · FOURTH EDITION

ALISTER E. MAULDEN

SITUATION

- Paul says, God's laws are good, but they are also incapable of motivating us to live up to God's righteous expectations. Whether the law is present or not, we can't obey it perfectly, we are still sinners.
- But Paul is only laying the foundation for the good news that follows.
- Note that *Justification* refers to God's declaration that we are not guilty for our sins, *Redemption* means that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross, and *Atonement* refers to Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

I
AM
EVERYDAY
PEOPLE

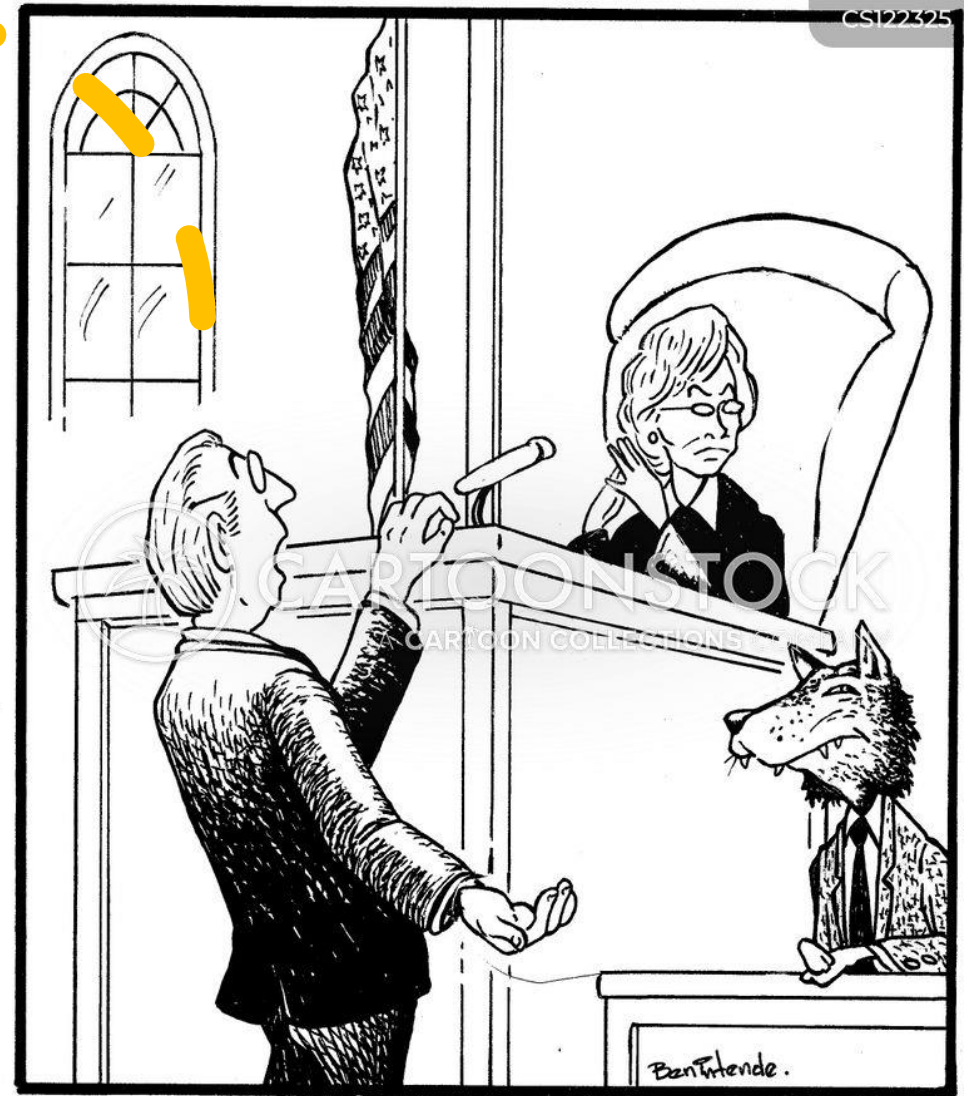


OBSERVATION

- READ ROMANS 3:21-31
 1. EVERYDAY PEOPLE MUST BELIEVE
 2. EVERYDAY PEOPLE MAKE BLUNDERS
 3. EVERYDAY PEOPLE ARE MET WITH A BONUS

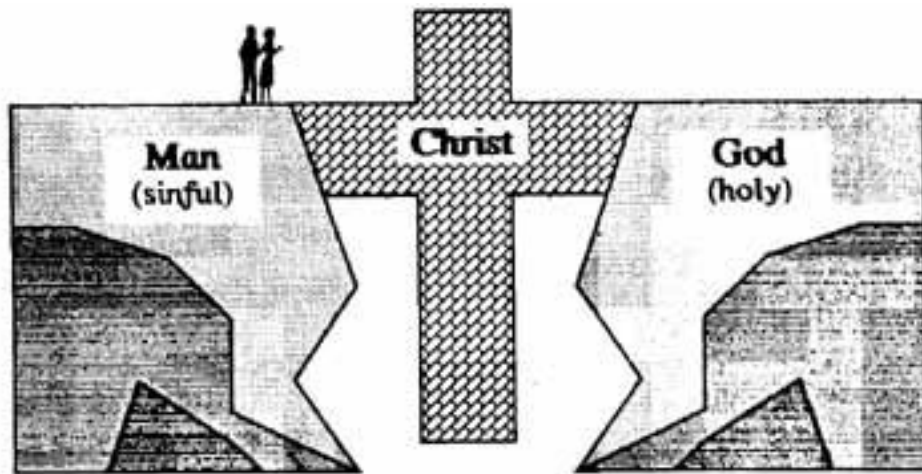
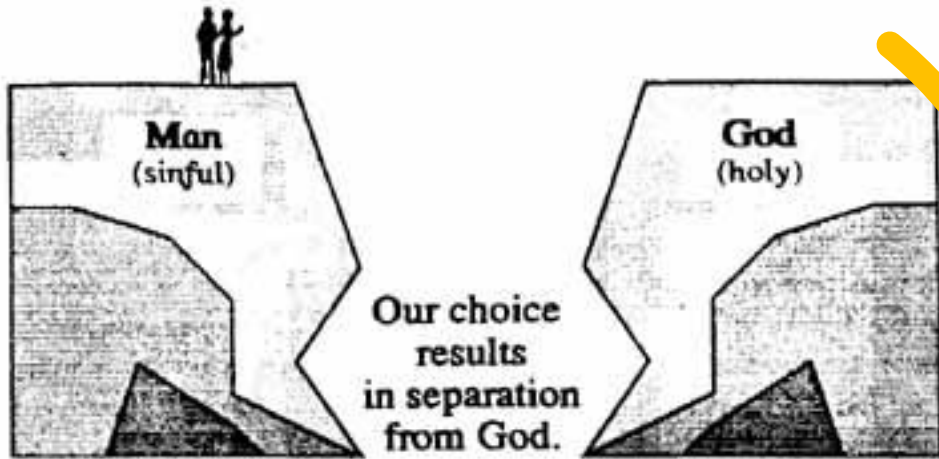
EXPLORATION

1. What does Paul say all people share when it comes to God's laws and his standards?
2. How are people made right with God? What is required of them?
3. How did God demonstrate his righteousness in not just "dismissing people's sins?"
4. How does God's plan demonstrate his fairness toward all of humanity?
5. What should prevent believers from bragging?



"WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY EXPECT FROM MY CLIENT, YOUR HONOR? HE'S A WOLF!"

INSPIRATION



Ponder the achievement of God. He doesn't condone our sin, nor does he compromise his standard. He doesn't ignore our rebellion, nor does he relax his demands. Rather than dismiss our sin, he assumes our sin and, incredibly, sentences himself. God's holiness is honored. Our sin is punished. And we are redeemed. God is still God. The wages of sin are still death. And we are made righteous.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ...God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:19,21

REACTION

1. When did you realize salvation is a free gift provided by Christ?
2. Who or what helped you reach that realization?
3. In what different ways do people try to earn salvation?
4. How was Jesus able to fulfill the commands of God's law and atone for our sins?
5. How would your life today be different without Jesus? What has his gift meant to you?
6. How will you respond to God for being both merciful and just?



LIFE LESSONS

What is priceless can't be bought or earned. Eternal life is just such a treasure. We receive it free or not at all. We could never afford it. We could never deserve it. **It's God's gift to us, or we don't have it.**

But it would be a huge mistake to conclude in this case that what is free is cheap. It cost God a great deal, including his Son's life, to provide this gift for us. There's no room for bragging in our response, but only gratitude.





DEVOTION

Father in heaven, we come to you, aware that we do not deserve to be in your presence. We thank you that you have provided a path for us through the blood of your precious Son. Your saving grace is a priceless gift. Keep us amazed and mesmerized by what you have done for us.