

Romans 2 – 6 December 2020

“Righteousness: The Method Of Our Rescue”

Introduction

*Paul wrote to the Roman church the greatest document on our salvation that there is

*He begins in chap 1-3 laying out our desperate slavery to sin & our need of righteousness

*Chap 3-5 he'll talk about how righteousness is given

*Chap 6-8 he'll talk about growing in this righteousness

*Chap 9-11 he'll talk about Israel obtaining salvation

*Chap 12-15 he'll talk about the application of righteousness to everyday life

*Our greatest need isn't happiness, money, love...it's to be in right relation with the only Eternal One, God

Today, we'll see 4 principles of righteousness

1st Principle of Righteousness: We don't have it (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1-3

1. Vs 1 – inexcusable lit. means indefensible
 - a. We're helplessly stuck as slaves to sin
 - b. The fact that we notice and judge sin in others, proves that we see the sinfulness of sin
2. B/c of universal sin described in chap 1 we can't judge (lit. *to condemn*) others
 - a. We can't lift ourselves above another
 - b. We've all done it, we're all defenseless
3. God will judge righteousness according to His truth, not according to our opinion.
 - a. IAW our opinion, we may be innocent
 - b. IAW God's truth, we're all guilty

Read Vs 4

1. That God allows continuing sin we should seek God for righteousness & grace not to just sin more
2. We should spend the time repenting

Read Vs 5

1. Impenitent lit. means *unrepentant*
 - a. Continuing to sin adds to judgement coming
2. Use the mean time to increase in your understanding and relationship w/ God

2nd Principle of Righteousness: It's the criteria for our future judgement (Vs 6-11)

Read Vs 6-7

1. Not that these works gain you eternal life, but that they show you're headed for eternal life
2. Paul is not intending to discuss *how* to gain righteousness, just discussing *that we need it*
 - a. Chap 3:22 is coming
 - b. Vs 7 – Good works show you're seeking righteousness

Read Vs 8-9

1. There's a "day of wrath" in the future in which He "will render" punishment to the deserving

Read Vs 10-11

1. There's a day coming in the future in which He will render good to those who obey Him
2. Having/lacking righteousness will have its reward
 - a. Do you have perfectly good deeds?
 - b. Do you seek after good?
 - c. No, none of us do

3rd Principle of Righteousness: Judgement is based on level of knowledge of righteousness (Vs 12-16)

Read Vs 12

1. We perish according to our disobedience to what level of knowledge of God we know.
2. We're accountable for level of knowledge of God that we have

Read Vs 13

1. It's not having the Law that saved, it's obedience to whatever you DO KNOW of God
2. Jews thought, "God gave us the Law, we're special".
 - a. James says that we're self-deceived if we think knowing right ways of God is good enough
 - i. "I was raised in church, I'm good". Wrong!
 - ii. Knowing & believing are 2 different things
 - b. Having it given to you only makes you accountable for more.

Read Vs 14-15

1. The conscience itself gives a level of knowledge and accountability to everyone to come to God

Read Vs 16

1. There's a set day coming which we'll give account for the level of knowledge that we had
2. Jesus Christ: The One who is perfectly righteous will judge whether we're righteous or not

4th Principle of Righteousness: It needs applied to us (Vs 17-29)

Read Vs 17-20

1. The Jews positioned themselves as the ones to help others see the light of God
2. Knowledge of subject is a start, but not enough
3. Read I Cor 8:1b – Want to help someone? Go through it yourself, then you'll have sympathy.

Read Vs 21-23

1. Jews never applied the principles to themselves
2. Jews thought judgement was for the Gentiles and not for themselves

Read Vs 24-25

1. God having given the Jews the Law would profit them...if they applied it to themselves
2. “Do as I say & not as I do” doesn’t save you

Read Vs 26-27

1. The one who keeps the Law is made righteous and can judge others
 - a. Here’s the catch...only Jesus can keep it
 - b. We’ll get to that in Rom 3 and beyond

Read Vs 28-29

1. Only God can see the heart to see if there’s true righteousness or not
2. Rituals given to Jews were outward symbols picturing the needed inward reality.

Conclusion

If we're joined to Christ Jesus, one day we'll live in a state of complete righteousness. For now, know this:

1. **We don't have righteousness, in & of ourselves**
 - a. Righteousness is judged IAW God's perfect standards & not according to our opinion
2. **Righteousness is criteria for our future judgement**
 - a. If you can gain one thing in life, it's not happiness or money, that is temporary; it's righteousness. That is needed at judgement
3. **Judgement is based on our level of knowledge of righteousness**
 - a. Knowledge of God doesn't save you, just makes you even more accountable
4. **We need to apply the standard of righteousness to ourselves**
 - a. It's always easy to see sin in others, but what about yourself?

Read II Pet 3:11-13