

# Romans 3 – 13 December 2020

## “Righteousness Has Shown His Face”

### Introduction

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

\*Chap 1-3 - slavery to sin & need of righteousness

\*Chap 3-5 - how it's is given, \*Chap 6-8 - growing in it

\*Chap 9-11 - Israel obtaining salvation

\*Chap 12-15 - application of it to everyday life

\*Salvation comes when we obtain righteousness

Ending Chap 2 vs 25 – there's a desperation that we can't keep the Law

**So today, we'll see 3 things to do when you realize you can gain righteousness by keeping the Law**

# 1<sup>st</sup> thing to do: Don't give up on doing good (Vs 1-8)

Read Vs 1-2

1. What good is it to have Law if can't keep it?
  - a. They're given knowledge of God' perfect way, what a blessing!
  - b. They're given knowledge of God Himself

Read Vs 3-4

1. It doesn't make the truth of God into a lie just b/c some of Israel didn't believe it.
2. Same as when an Atheist says, "I don't believe in God." Doesn't matter, God still loves them.

Read Vs 5

1. Paul's adversary would have said, "God's judgement of us is wrong b/c our sin is helping Him prove He's good and we're not."
2. It's specifically b/c we live unrighteous that God judges and for no other reason

## Read Vs 6

1. The argument of vs 5 can't be true or God couldn't judge anyone let alone Israel

## Read Vs 7

1. He's restating the question from vs 5 – If God is glorified when I sin, why would I be judged?
2. In fact, why not just keep on sinning?

## Read Vs 8

1. Paul NEVER taught this kind of “sloppy grace”
2. Paul's adversaries would say, Paul is teaching, “don't worry about doing good, b/c you'll never keep the whole Law”. This isn't true
  - a. “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid! (Opens Rom 6)
  - b. Paul is teaching that righteousness can't be obtained thru the Law or by us at all! But by grace or a free gift from God!
    - i. So his enemies exaggerate to sloppy grace.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> thing to do: Accept that the Law has fulfilled its purpose in showing ALL have ALWAYS been guilty (Vs 9-20)**

Read Vs 9-12

1. The Law didn't fail!
2. The Law proved that ALL people have ALWAYS been guilty.
3. All people from all times have always been unable to be righteous
4. This is quote from Psm 14 – none are righteous

Read Vs 13-17

1. These are quotes from all over Psms, Prov & Isaiah.
2. All are condemned, of themselves, it's always been that way

Read Vs 18

1. This is from Psm 36:1
2. Many vss to make the point that it's everywhere
3. This one is a good summary of them all

## Read Vs 19

1. Those who truly come to the Law can't help but see that they're helplessly guilty.
2. That will make you sit quiet & stop justifying yourself
3. This is what everyone needs to come to the good news of Jesus...they need the bad news first!

## Read Vs 20

1. Law wasn't designed to save from sin, but to simply bring the knowledge of sin.
  - a. Turn to Gal 3:22-24
  - b. Law was to point our helpless soul to God
2. Law wasn't designed to bring righteousness, but to be a mirror reflecting our sin to us
  - a. As in James 1 – Pulling back the curtains doesn't make the dust only reveals it!

## **3<sup>rd</sup> thing to do: Have faith that Jesus IS righteousness & that He give it to you (Vs 21-31)**

Read Vs 21-23

1. The path to righteousness, that has always been there, has now been named...faith in Jesus
2. Always been this way...for Adam, Noah, & Abe
  - a. Romans 4 is all about the salvation of Abe as an example that it's always been the same

Read Vs 24-25

1. Jesus bought us into His family from slavery to sin...that's grace!
2. We need to have faith in His work. What work?
  - a. The work of His blood
  - b. Work of Jesus is what appeases God, not us

Read Vs 26

1. God has declared Jesus' perfection
2. God has also declared Jesus' willingness to impart it to us!

## Read Vs 27

1. That our way to righteousness is from God & not of ourselves makes us all equals
2. Equality means peace and rest.
  - a. No fighting to be better than we are
  - b. No wrestling to be better than others
  - c. No striving to earn our way to God never knowing if we're good enough

## Read Vs 28

1. B/c we can see perfect righteousness in the face of Jesus, we see that justification is not b/c of the Law but b/c of Jesus
2. Law is good but it can't justify you, only Jesus can do that.

## Read Vs 29-30

1. Anyone can be justified by faith b/c it's God's plan and not a Jewish plan.
  - a. God is the God of creation, not just of Jews

## Read Vs 31

1. Our faith is in Jesus' righteousness.
2. His righteousness was established by perfectly keeping the Law.
3. So the Law is not bad.
4. Turn to I Tim 1:8-10
  - a. The Law is to reveal to you sin
  - b. The Law isn't to make you righteous



## Conclusion

There's a moment in life when you realize that you sit helpless to do good let alone perfect.

### **1. Don't give up on doing good**

- a. Doing right still honors God, it just can't bring you righteousness
- b. "Let us not grow weary in well doing' for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal 6:9

### **2. Accept that the Law has fulfilled its purpose in showing that all have always been guilty**

- a. The law didn't fail – like when God created Adam as a whole person before He split Adam
  - i. Adam needed to experience no relationship
- b. Law succeeded in pointing us back to God!

### **3. Have faith the Jesus is righteous & want to give that righteousness to you**

- a. Jesus' blood has bought us, accept His free gift.
- b. Let the equality of Christ's gift to us bring peace