

ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

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SERMON: The Purpose of the Law

SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:1-20

SUMMARY: The purpose of the law is to show that all people are under the power of sin and therefore guilty. The Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God and even though they were often unfaithful, God is still faithful because God is true! Paul addresses a twisted idea about sin that would seem to minimize sin and ultimately justify sinning. May it never be among God's people that sin is seen in any way different from how God sees sin! No one can be made right with God by keeping the law. The purpose of the law is to keep people from having excuses to sin and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.

The truth of the Scripture and the understanding of the Law bring conviction through the working of the Holy Spirit. *How one responds to this conviction of the heart will determine eternal destiny.*

READ:

ROMANS 3:1-4

1 Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision? 2 Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God. 3 True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? 4 Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him, "You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court."

I. GOD IS FAITHFUL AND TRUE.

God is faithful even when we are not.

God's Law is faithful and true.

ROMANS 3:5-8

5 "But," some might say, "our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn't it unfair, then, for him to punish us?" (This is merely a human point of view.) 6 Of course not! If God were not entirely fair, how would he be qualified to judge the world? 7 "But," someone might still argue, "how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him more glory?" 8 And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, "The more we sin, the better it is!" Those who say such things deserve to be condemned.

II. THERE IS NEVER AN ACCEPTABLE REASON TO SIN OR EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY LAW BREAKING!

When we attempt to justify our sin, we join a long line of humans who constantly look for ways to excuse their sins. Adam and Eve did it. You and I do it and everyone in between.

ROMANS 3:9-18

9 Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. 10 As the Scriptures say,

"No one is righteous—not even one.

11 No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

12 All have turned away; all have become useless.

No one does good, not a single one."

13 "Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave.

Their tongues are filled with lies."

"Snake venom drips from their lips."

14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "They rush to commit murder.

16 Destruction and misery always follow them.

17 They don't know where to find peace."

18 "They have no fear of God at all."

III. YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE!

The *power of sin* and the *conviction of the law* applies to everyone.

From Psalms, Isaiah, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs come the strong witness against everyone including the Jews.

ROMANS 3:19-20

19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.

20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

IV. THE LAW'S PURPOSE IS TO SHOW THAT ALL SIN!

- Paul declares that all have sinned (3:9).
- The Old Testament declares that all have sinned (3:10-18).
- The Law declares that all have sinned (3:19-20).

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON GUIDE

1. Have you ever broken a law? Describe your experience. Was the law fair? What lessons did you learn?
2. Since the Garden of Eden, people have been trying to spin sin and make the law something God never intended it to be or do something he never intended it to do. What are some modern day spins on God's law that people use to justify sin?
3. How can Scripture help show people that sin is sin and there is no grey area with God?
4. As Christians share truth and faith and love with people through kindness, their hope is that the Holy Spirit will work in people's hearts. What opportunities and responsibilities do believers have in the process of helping others come face to face with the consequences of sin? What are some effective strategies for communicating truth about sin with others?

5. If no one does good, not a single one and no one is righteous not even one, what is the point of understanding and acknowledging sin? The law reveals sin. Sin is an abomination to God. Jesus offers forgiveness for sin and a right relationship with God that will last forever. How is someone forgiven for their sins? What must they do?
6. There is no more equalizing fact among men than to know that all people everywhere are under the power of sin and guilty for their sins. How might this scripture passage help you share the good news?
7. PRAY: Thank the Lord for the law and its authority to demonstrate the power of sin, to remove excuses for sin and to show that all men are guilty of sin.