

## Romans – Part 2

**Recap** – Paul is presenting a complete picture of salvation. He begins with the fact that God has made Himself known. Through creation, through nature, through people, we can see God and know that He exists.

When we reject Him, and use human reasoning to try and explain things, we actually become fools. The more we reject God, the more we become immoral. In places and people that fully reject Him, we see extreme cases of immorality.

But being moral is not what will save us either. People who try to be good, and do enough good will find that they can never be good enough.

Without God, we can never obtain righteousness. And without righteousness, we will face the wrath of God – which is poured out against unrighteousness. This is why we need a Savior.

**Romans 2:12-16** For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law <sup>13</sup> (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; <sup>14</sup> for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) <sup>16</sup> in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

- Paul is still addressing those trying to earn salvation by good works.
- People who have heard the law, but do not obey the law are guilty
- People who have not heard the law are still guilty. The morality of God is written into our very being. When people choose to do good, this proves this. We do not choose good without that because of our sin nature.
- **Their thoughts accusing or else excusing them:** In theory, a man might be justified (“excused”) by obeying his conscience. Unfortunately, every man has violated his conscience (God’s internal

revelation to man), just as every man has violated God's written revelation.

- **So even obeying our own conscience is not enough to save us.**
- There is no "My Truth" that will bring salvation.
- Essentially Paul is shooting down moral relativism.

### **Romans 2:17-Romans 3:4**

Being a Jew is not enough to save you

- **Romans 2:25** For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.
- **There is no outward salvation.**
- Going to church does not make you saved. Wearing a cross, getting baptized, telling people you are saved – none of this is salvation.
- Being born in a Christian nation will not save you.
- Being born in a Christian family does not save you.

So essentially, people have a problem with unrighteousness. When left to ourselves, we will fall into all sorts of evil. Without God there is no end to our depravity. And God's wrath will be poured out on unrighteousness.

So we need a path to righteousness. Morality will not get us there. We can never do enough good works to be considered perfectly righteous. Our heritage, position, nationality will not make us righteous.

Anything apart from God cannot make us righteous. And that is why we need a Savior. Why salvation is so important.

**Romans 3:5-8** But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is God unjust who inflicts wrath?* (I speak as a man.) <sup>6</sup> Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world? <sup>7</sup> For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? <sup>8</sup> And *why not say*, "Let us do evil that good may

come"—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

- If our unrighteousness shows just how righteous God is, then doesn't my unrighteousness serve to bring God more glory? And if I am bringing Him glory, is He unjust to inflict wrath?
- No. God is not unjust. Judging the world is how God brings justice. While unrighteousness does prove righteousness, it is not an excuse for it.
- "Let us do evil that good may come" – This is a perversion of the Gospel of grace. We will come back to this concept later on. But the argument here is if God pours out grace on the sinner, then shouldn't I just keep sinning so I can receive more grace?

The idea that sin proves God's goodness, therefore sin is excusable is possibly the worst reason a person could ever give for not needing a Savior.

Twisting the glorious free gift of God in Jesus into a supposed license to sin is the peak of man's depravity. It takes the most beautiful gift of God and perverts it and mocks it. This twisting is so sinful Paul saves it for last, because it is beyond the depravity of the pagan, beyond the hypocrisy of the moralist, and beyond the false confidence of the Jew.

**Romans 3:9-10** What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. <sup>10</sup> As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one;*

- All are under sin
- Under = under control of. A reference to slavery.
- There is and never has been any person other than Christ that had been found righteous.
- The best person you know, apart from Christ, is not righteous.
- No matter where you were born, how good of a person you are, or even how much ignorance you claim, no one is actually righteous.

**Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

- And there is nothing we can do of ourselves that will ever make us righteous.

So where is the good in this good news? Where is there hope?

## HOPE

**Romans 3:21-22** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

- There is hope because God has revealed how to obtain His righteousness.
- It has nothing to do with the law.
- It has been confirmed through the Old Testament Scriptures.

Righteousness is obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.

- To everyone. No matter your birth, situation, past. To everyone that will believe – you can obtain righteousness.
- But not just any righteousness. The actual righteousness of God.
- Is that what Paul is really saying here? That not our works, but by our faith we get the same level of righteousness as God Himself?
- YES!!! That is exactly what he is saying.

**Romans 3:23-26** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- Just read this passage.

- Everyone has sinned – hence the need for salvation.
- But God, freely – by His grace. It costs us nothing. God freely offers this. Even though we don't deserve it. Remember, we are all unrighteous. Why should God give us His righteousness? We didn't earn it. We do not deserve it.
- What is our faith in? Jesus!
  - That he died on a cross. His blood is the propitiation for our sin
  - That God really does forgive us based on Jesus' sacrifice
  - That we are justified by God when we put our faith in Jesus.

**Romans 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

- The conclusion is that we are justified by our faith in the works of Jesus, not of our works.
- So how do we measure our righteousness? Ex of measuring horsepower with a tire gauge.
  - Best way to measure hp is by reading the manual. What does the manufacturer say it is?

So if our works do not determine our righteousness – can we throw out the law and just do whatever we want?

**Romans 3:30-31** since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

- No! Actually, Jesus makes the law actually make sense! The law points to a Savior. Jesus fulfills Passover. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. Jesus is the lamb, Jesus is the rest they were looking for in the Promised land...
- **Matthew 5:17-20** "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Whoever therefore

breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.