

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Righteousness from God

Romans 3

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." Romans 3:22a

Read Romans 3:1–8.

1. In this passage, Paul is engaged in a debate. What are the arguments raised, and what is Paul's response to each of them?
 - a. vv. 1–2
 - b. vv. 3–4 (compare Deut. 32:4; 2 Tim. 2:13)
 - c. vv. 5–6
 - d. vv. 7–8
2. Have you ever been tempted to "do evil that good may result" (v. 8)? What does this passage say about the rationalization that the end justifies the means?

Read Romans 3:9–20.

3. What is the underlying sin, with which Paul opens (vv. 10–12a) and closes (v. 18) his list?
(📖 Mk. 12:28–30)
4. List the phrases in verses 10–18 that show the ways in which we have sinned.
 - a. What do these phrases emphasize about human sin?
 - b. How do the charges in verses 10–18 fit you? How do you respond?
 - c. In what ways does our culture reflect the truth of these charges? How should we respond?
5. What is the law unable to do? (v. 20)

What does the law do?

Read Romans 3:21–26.

6. Look at the following passages from "the Law and the Prophets" (that is, the Old Testament). What does each one prophesy about the new righteousness from God?
 - a. Gen. 15:6
 - b. Is. 53:4–6, 9–11

7. Paul takes great care in explaining this new righteousness.
 - a. Who is the source of this new righteousness? (vv. 21, 22, 25a)
 - b. How was it accomplished? (vv. 24–25)
 - c. How is it received? (v. 22)
8. In your own words, what does “righteousness” mean here, and what does it mean to be “justified”? (📖 Deut. 6:25; Gal. 3:10–14)
9. Proverbs 17:15 states, “*Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent– the Lord detests them both.*” In Romans, Paul has demonstrated at length that all people are sinful and deserving of judgment (1:18—3:20). Explain how God is able to be both “just and the one who justifies” (v. 26).
10. What does it mean that Christ was presented as a “sacrifice of atonement” (v. 25)? (Lev. 16:11; Heb. 10:10)

Read Romans 3:27–31.

11. How does Paul summarize how we are saved? (vv. 27-28)
12. What are you tempted to boast about, either aloud or in your heart? Why are we left with nothing to boast about?
13. Using truths from this chapter, how might you answer someone who thinks she’s been pretty good compared to lots of other people, and so God should let her into heaven?
14. How might you use truths in this chapter to answer someone who thinks she’s a horrible person who’s totally messed up her life and the lives of others, and so God would never let her anywhere near heaven?