

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/15-16/2022 *Romans Chapter 3*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Theme of the Book of Romans: “Righteousness by Faith” – 1:16-17

Romans Chapter 3 – God’s Judgment Defended - vs. 1-8; All Have Sinned – vs. 9-20; God’s Righteousness Through Faith– vs. 21-26; Boasting Excluded – vs. 27-31

We continue our study in Romans Chapter Three of this classic Book.

- **Now Paul the Apostle in chapter one, showed that the Gentile world was guilty before God.**
- **In chapter two, he showed how that the Jews who were resting in the law, making their boast of God, were no better off than the Gentiles, who were guilty before God.**

God's Righteousness Upheld

Rom 3:1 *What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?*

Rom 3:2 *Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.*

- **What is the advantage of being a Jew? What is the advantage of being circumcised?** Paul's answer is, *Much in every way!* There are advantages, saying, *Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.* They were people of special privilege. God had revealed His word to them.
- **We are people of special privilege in that God has given us His word.** That is a tremendous advantage to have the Word of God! But if you do not keep the Word of God, if you do not live by the Word, then having the Word itself is not an advantage. But in reality, you have a greater responsibility, knowing the will of God than a person who has never known the will of God or the Word of God.
- **So, what is the advantage?** The great advantage of having the law of God is that it brings the knowledge of sin and shows us our need of a Savior! (**Gal 3:24**) *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.* Oh, yes!! All of us desperately need a Savior!

Rom 3:3 *For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?*

Rom 3:4 *Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "THAT YOU (God) MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR (God's) WORDS, AND MAY OVERCOME WHEN YOU (God) ARE JUDGED."*

- **Certainly not!** Perish the thought! **Indeed,** God's truth stands! Believe it or not. And whether you believe it or not, let God be true. Let the truth of God stand. Even, if nobody believes it, it is still true because it is God's Word!
- **As it is written: That You may be justified. Speaking of God here,** as it is written, that You might be justified *in Your words, And may overcome (or prevail) when You are judged.*" Now this is quoted from Psalm 51. When David had been faced with his sin with Bathsheeba. (**Psa 51:4**) *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.*
- **Now what he is saying here is that God is justified in what He had said.** Men often challenge then, what God has said about heaven, about hell. What God has said about the judgment of sinners. Many times, people challenge the justice or the fairness of God. How could a God of love allow a child to be born without an arm, with a physical impairment? Why would a God of love, and it is always the challenging by man of the fairness or the justice of God? It is interesting how that we want to blame God for every calamity. We blame God falsely.
- **We are living in a world that is in rebellion against God.** We are living in a world that is suffering the consequences of those rebellions. Prior to the flood of Noah, there were no hurricanes or destructive tornadoes. The earth was surrounded and encompassed in a cloud or a vapor, that shielded out much of the ultraviolet rays. They did not know what skin cancer was. They lived to be nine hundred years old. They had a nice environment.
- **But when God saw that the wickedness of man was exceedingly great** and the thoughts and the imaginations of his heart were only evil continually, God brought the judgment of the Flood. With it followed dramatic climatic changes, shortening man's live span. No longer living to be close to a millennium, a thousand years old. It is interesting when you think of man's history, that Noah lived almost one sixth of the history of mankind. But man's historic existence has not been that long. His lifespan was dramatically cut off right after the flood. Why? Because his protection, this blanket around the earth, was removed.
- **Now we are exposed to more of the ultraviolet rays of the sun and the cosmic radiation,** getting through to the earth, creating the mutation of our cells. The quicker breakdown and a faster aging process and man's dying at a much younger age than they did previously. But that is the result from sin! God warned of the consequences of sin. He said if you do this, this is what is going to happen. Man did it and then when it happened, he wants to blame God!

- **If you jump off a high-rise building, go upon the roof and try to fly, jump off**, I can tell you that if you survive, you are going to be hurting badly. That is just the law of gravity. Now, if you go up and jump off, you cannot really blame me because you are hurting so badly. You see, I am not to blame because I warned you of what would be the consequences of a particular action.
- **Even so, God is not to be blamed because He knows that certain actions are going to bring certain results** in your life. Pain, suffering, sorrow, yet we go ahead and do these things. Then we want to blame God for the consequences. That is wrong! Man is wrong in judging God.
- **He is speaking of that here in verse four, that You might prevail when You are judged.** I have a hard time understanding the mindset of a man who would challenge God or who would judge God. Who am I to challenge the justice of God or the fairness of God? Yet we find people doing that, but He prevails.

Rom 3:5 *But* (anticipating their question) *if* (and it is so) ***our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man* – not speaking his own mind but that of another man.)**

Rom 3:6 *Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?*

- **Certainly not!** God forbid! Perish the thought! ***For then how will God judge the world? But our disobedience***, our unrighteousness has commended the righteousness of God. God did not destroy us. We as the Jews still exist and our unrighteousness. Look at their history, always turning away from God, and God would bring them into judgment. God led them into captivity. They suffered a lot of pain. They suffered a lot of sorrow because of their disobedience to God.
- **But they said it commends the righteousness of God!** God did not destroy us. So, you see, they say, well why weren't they destroyed? Therefore, why should God judge us for being unrighteous? Actually, we only proved that He was true! God said that we were going to turn away. God said that we were going to go into captivity. Thus, because we proved that the word of God is true, God really should not judge us for our unrighteousness. He is unfair to take vengeance. Again, Paul uses this phrase, Perish the Thought! How ridiculous! Because how could God then judge the world?

Rom 3:7 *For if* (and it is so) ***the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner?***

- **But then they say, why am I also still judged as a sinner?** I told this whopping lie of how God was with me. How God revealed Himself, leading me through these difficult circumstances. People were praising God and saying oh bless God for that glorious thing. It was a big lie, a big whopper, but oh, it got the people all excited, praising God! So, because so many people were blessed, even people got saved, why should God judge me? You know actually God ought to pin a badge on me for telling such a great lie that convinced so many people that God was wonderful! But that is an irrational logic that people concoct.

Rom 3:8 *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.***

- **Paul said, I have never said anything like that!** Now God's grace, God's love and God's justification are glorious things! The redemption through Jesus Christ is wonderful! It is especially glorious when a person whose life has been so totally destroyed by sin, they are really at the bottom of the barrel. It is glorious to see the grace of God extended to such a person and their lives transformed miraculously! We call them trophies of grace. We look to what God has wrought and we rejoice together.
- **Does that mean that I should go out and just really destroy my life in sin and take all of the drugs** that I can? So that then I can be saved and then God's grace might be demonstrated. Then people will glorify God because His grace is sort of exalted in that He reached to the depths....No, no, no! But you see this is the kind of foolish reasoning that sometimes people have.

No One Is Righteous

Rom 3:9 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.

- **That is, are we Jews better than the Gentiles?** No! *Not at all.* Now the Jews had the advantage of receiving the oracles of God. God gave them His law. God told them what He would do for them if they kept His law and what the consequences would be if they broke the law of God. They broke the law of God and God's word, true and those consequences of which God warned, came upon them. So, we have proved that God's word is true. But the advantage then is gone. It is only if you keep the word of God that it is an advantage to you. Paul said we have proved **both Jew and Gentile that they are all under sin!**
- **Having made his charge, the Apostle is going onto prove it!** He deliberately chooses fourteen charges out of the Psalms and prophets, in order to substantiate his great contention, that all, universally, without a single exception, the good people, the very best and nicest people, as well as the worst and the most vile – *all are under sin!*
- **We are given fourteen different charges, all of them taken from the Old Testament, regarding their condition;** Six of them before the Judge and the other eight before the Great Physician, who says we are all sick. In fact, we are sick nearly to death, dead in trespass and sin. That is our condition. Quoting Scripture is always a good way of showing truth and proving your point to skeptics! Choosing Old Testament scriptures was especially appropriate as the Jews had great respect for them!
- **We see here a picture of what man is really like in and of himself,** in his natural birth, apart from the grace of God in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is a terrible picture, but unfortunately, it is a true picture!
- **By showing us the terrible character of sin** and the appalling position of man as he is by nature, it therefore shows us by contrast, the glory of the grace of God! It is in spite of the fact that all of us are by nature as we are described here that God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law. It is by the blackness and the darkness, that by contrast, the glory and the splendor of the Light is displayed! It is just another way of saying that **the greater our understanding of the sinfulness** of your condition, **the greater will be your understanding of the love** and the grace and the compassion and the mercy of God!

Rom 3:10 As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;

- **RIGHTEOUS** means living a life in perfect conformity to the law of God! Living as God desires man to live! Being righteous, is to live dead straight with respect to a plumbline. You are meant to be totally straight, absolutely upright! And **not to be upright is to be sinful, to offend against God, to mar** His perfect creation! **Adam marred it!** We are all of Adam!

Rom 3:11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS; THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD.

Rom 3:12 THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE; THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME UNPROFITABLE (over ripe, spoiled fruit); **THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, NO, NOT ONE."**

- **Paul begins to make this indictment against both Jew and Gentile.** We are all of us guilty before God. There are none of us who are righteous before God. Not one! But we have all gone out of the way. (*Psa 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Ecc 7:20*)

Rom 3:13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN TOMB; WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY HAVE PRACTICED DECEIT"; "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

- **Then he begins to describe them.** The mouth speaks blasphemous things. Death proceeds. Poison. With their tongues they have practiced deceit! (*Psa 5:9*);

- **The tongue is far more dangerous** than any rattlesnake, which cannot hurt your reputation at all, as we can so easily do, by what we say. (*Psa 140:3*)

Rom 3:14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS."

- **Consider the vocabulary of any profession of man today.** They are better at using profanity than they are at any other language. How their foul language has increased! (*Psa 10:7*)

Rom 3:15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD;

Rom 3:16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR WAYS;

Rom 3:17 AND THE WAY OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

- (*Isa 59:7-8*) *Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. [8] The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.*
- **Feet carrying us to mischief,** to bloody acts.

Rom 3:18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

- **This summarizes the entire thought.** All sin and rebellion against God occurs because we do not have a proper respect for Him. Summing up all of man's sin in the final statement, we see man has *no fear of God* at all! He is living as if God does not exist. Man is actually defying God! What a picture of mankind! (*Psa 36:1*)

Rom 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

- **The law or keeping rules, cannot make you righteous.**
- **Here, Paul is talking about what the law says.** It says to those *that are under the law that every mouth may be stopped and the whole world may become guilty before God.* Because, you see, if you keep the whole law and you violate in one point, you are guilty of all! It does not matter which point you have violated, you are guilty!
- **We remember what Jesus was saying about the two men who went into the temple to pray.** The Pharisee said, Father, I thank You that I am not like other men. But I do all of these good things. I pay tithes and so forth. I do all these wonderful things. Jesus said this poor old publican would not even lift his head up but just was beating on his chest, saying, "Oh God have mercy upon me, a sinner." But Jesus said, he went home justified. Why? Because he cast himself upon the mercies of God. He was not looking at his own righteousness, which as a Pharisee, came from his misinterpreting of the law. He had interpreted the law so that he, in his mind, was fulfilling the law, when in reality he had broken the law, but his misinterpretation made him very self-righteous.

Rom 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.

- **All that the law can do is show you what sin is.** But in seeing what sin is, it should then drive me to God for help and forgiveness! The law reveals the fact that I am a sinner. When it has done that it fulfills its purpose! It is a mistake to think that you can set up a bunch of rules and live by those rules and be righteous. Not so! And this is the principle of law. It is not just the Ten Commandments. It is the principle of rules. Many churches have made the mistake of setting up rules for righteousness. All that develops is self-righteousness, which will not save.

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

(Rom 3:21-26) *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, [22] even the righteousness of God, through faith in*

Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] 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, [26] to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Rom 3:21 *But now the righteousness (“right-on-ness”, having the rightness) of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,*

- **Apart from the law.** This means that our attempting to keep the Law perfectly ourselves as the means of salvation has been entirely set aside, not because the Law no longer applies, but because Jesus has rendered this perfect obedience to the Law on our behalf. He saves us by keeping and honoring the Law for us! The Law has not been removed. God has not done away with the Law. The Lord Jesus Christ has satisfied it and kept it! We are given the fruit and the results of what He has done!

Rom 3:22 *even the righteousness of God, through (not earned, but received; means through which) faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;*

- **We now come to the unfolding of that word,** which Paul in Chapter One, declares to be the very heart of the gospel. The reason it is “*the power of God to salvation*”; namely, “*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*
- **The first work of the apostle was to bring the whole world under the judgment of God,** guilty, helpless. as we have seen in studying *Chapter 1:18-3:20*.
- **His second task, and it is a blessed one, is to reveal God’s coming out in righteousness at the cross to us.** Let us most diligently read, meditate on it! Yes, and commit to memory verses 21-26; for it is God’s great statement of justification by faith!
- **But now. There are no more wonderful words in the whole Scripture** than just these two words, providing us with a contrast and a time factor! We have a great division, **a great contrast, moving out of the night into the day!** We see a change in the flow of Paul’s argument. Having **shown the impossibility** of gaining righteousness by human effort, he turns to explain the **righteousness that God Himself has provided.** How can I now be saved?
- **The righteousness of God** – What is the *righteousness of God*? It is to have a right standing, a “right-on-ness before God.” None of us in our sinful condition has that righteous standing. God declared through (*Isa 64:6a*) *But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags!* That even our very best is as filthy rags in the presence of the Holy God! But God has found a way to make us righteous in His providing of salvation for us! We read in (*2Co 5:21*) *For He (the Father) made Him (that is Jesus) who knew no sin (so Jesus has a perfect righteousness) to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* So, here we have the phrase repeated, *the righteousness of God.*
- **In the next chapter, Paul is going to use the man, Abraham as a classic example of righteousness by faith!** The Scriptures tell us that Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness? What accounted for his righteousness? His belief in God. But what did he believe? Where does it say that?
- **God took Abraham outdoors. He said look up into the heavens, Abraham.** You are talking desert skies. No light pollution. The strongest lights were candles and little lanterns. You are talking about a man standing out there in the desert. Clear, crystal clear, desert air. Looking up into the heavens and seeing the Milky Way and the myriads of stars! God said to Abraham, who at this point was still without his promised son. Even as the stars up there are innumerable, so shall your Seed be. *Abraham believed God and his belief was accounted for righteousness!* God said, “Righteous man.” Because he believed God.

- **But just a minute. Who shall your Seed be? Abraham understood that God was promising the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come** from Abraham's seed. That He would be a descendant of Abraham. For as Paul rightly comments on this passage in (*Gal 3:16*) *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "AND TO YOUR SEED," who is Christ.* Paul points out that it was unto His Seed, singular, as of one, not seeds plural, as of many, for that Seed is Jesus Christ!
- **So, Abraham believed in Jesus Christ.** As Paul said here, *the righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;* So, it is righteousness apart from the law, being witnessed by the law. Thus, in the first book of the Bible, one of the books of the law, here is Abraham believing God and his faith being imputed by God for righteousness. His believing that God would send the Messiah, Jesus Christ, through him. So, this *righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ.* That is *to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference*

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- **For when you talk about sinners, we are all on the same level. We are all guilty.** We have all sinned and have come short of the glory of God. That is almost a redundant statement because the definition of sin, missing the mark, is the same idea as coming short. We have not lived up to the mark. We have come short of the glory of God. To miss the mark is to miss the mark!
- **But I almost hit it! But you missed man. I came close.** Yes, but you missed. It is like we are going from here to Catalina. Halfway across the channel we sprung a leak and the boat went down. We all started swimming. I only get a hundred yards from where the spot where the boat went down, and I go down. But you keep stroking away. You get much further than I did, but then, you are just totally exhausted, and you go down. You came closer, but we both were down. The consequences are the same. We are sinners. As sinners, we are then under the judgment of God against sin!

Rom 3:24 being (present tense- from the moment we believe!) justified (just-as-if; your charges can't be found!) freely (without cause, without cost, all from God, nothing from us) by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

- **This verse is one of the most important in the Scriptures.** It can be compared to *John 3:16*. It is a perfect summary of the Christian faith! It is important therefore, that we should understand it clearly. It first give us a description for a definition of what salvation is. Second, how salvation becomes ours; and third, how it has ever been possible for God to provide such a salvation for us.
- **Being justified freely! Justified – “Just-as-if” you had never sinned.** Being *justified* is even better than forgiveness, where your charges are dropped. **Because of justification, all charges against you are not only dropped. They are wiped clean!** Completely removed! Expunged! There is no record of your sins every being committed! That is how God treats my sin. It is just as though I had never been guilty. So, it is a pure waste of time to agonize or feel guilt or condemnation over past sins that have been confessed to Him and forgiven by Him! They are no longer present on our record or any record! God has justified me freely through His grace! Justification by faith is much more that subtraction of our sins, which is forgiveness. It is the addition of the righteousness of Christ. We are not merely restored to Adam's former position, but now we are placed in Christ where we shall be throughout all eternity, as sons of God!
- **By His grace The word grace means undeserved or unmerited favor.** It is giving to me something **that I do not deserve at all!** We have three words that are sort of associated. The one is *justice*. We are getting that here in the text. The word, justice, means **getting what you deserve**. There is something in us that sort of loves justice. We sort of delight in it. He has gotten what he had coming. Good! It is getting what you deserve.
- **Mercy. That is not getting what you deserve.** When Napoleon was marching through Paris on one of his victory marches, a young girl broke from the crowd and came up crying, “Mercy, Sire, mercy for my father.” He said who is your father? She named him. And he said your father is a

traitor to France. He deserves to die. She said, I did not say justice, Sire. I said mercy! Yes he deserved to die, but mercy! It is not getting what you deserve.

- **Grace is getting what you do not deserve!** I do not deserve the forgiveness of sin! I do not deserve heaven! I deserve hell! If justice were served, I would go to hell. But God who is merciful with His great love where with He loved us. The *grace* of God! Not only is it that I do not go to hell, but I am going to spend eternity in heaven! Wow! That is grace! God's *grace*. He gives me that which I could not earn. There is no more a wonderful word than grace! It means unmerited favor, or kindness, shown to one who is utterly undeserving! That which I do not deserve and yet God gives to me and bestow upon me His love, His goodness, His blessing and the eternal benefit of the heavenly kingdom! Infinite love operating by an infinite means!
- **Through** (by means of, in connection with) **the redemption** (to ransom; payment of a ransom price!) **that is in Christ Jesus!** Through the fact that Jesus paid the price for me. His life laid down! Jesus Christ and Him, crucified! He died in my place! Redemption is always connected with the grace of God. Redemption is a word that simply means, the releasing of a slave or captive, upon the payment of a ransom. He paid a price! He liberated us from that condition! That is a part of our salvation. I am no longer enslaved to sin or my selfishness or these kinds of things. When these things rise up to try and take me captive again, I can say, "no way!" I have been redeemed! All glory to Him!
- **Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus! Nothing is more important** for us than to be clear about the meaning of this great verse! Are we clear about it? Do we see that it is in this way only that anyone can be saved? Are you quite clear about the fact that you cannot save yourself? Do you see clearly that all has been done for you in Christ Jesus? Do you see that salvation is something that we obtain freely by the grace of God? Unless we are clear about this, we are missing the very essence of the Gospel!

Rom 3:25 *whom* (that is Jesus Christ) **God set forth** (Whom? Jesus Christ. God has set forth to be.) **as a propitiation** (the satisfying payment for the forgiveness of our sins! Our Mercy Seat; substitute sacrifice) **by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,**

- (**Heb 9:12,14**) *Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. [14] how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God*
- **The judgment of God that had been pronounced against sinning man.** This sentence that was already given. The soul that sins shall die. The wages of sin is death. That sentence that had been declared, righteously declared by God against sinning man.
- **The righteousness of God had been propitiated through the death of Jesus Christ.** Through faith in the blood. The blood that Jesus Christ shed speaks of a life that has been poured out, signifying the giving of His life, satisfying payment in heaven! Now the sentence of sin is death. Jesus gave His life. He shed His blood. The righteousness of God that demanded the judgment on my sin was satisfied through the death of Christ! He is *propitiated* or the satisfaction given, through the fact that Jesus did die! Thus, the sins have allotted justice, or they have experienced then their consequences in Jesus Christ! God can freely forgive us, for He has paid the price for the forgiveness of our sins!
- **Now as Isaiah the prophet said, Paul said these things were testified in the law and the prophets,** Isaiah said, "All of us like sheep have gone astray. We turned every one of us to our own way. But God laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. God said for the transgressions of My people He was smitten." So, Jesus Christ, God incarnate, took upon Himself your guilt, my guilt!
- **In the Old Testament when you had sinned you would bring a sin offering to the priest.** You would bring a goat or a lamb. You would lay your hands on the head of the goat. You would confess your sin. That is in a symbolic sense transferring your sins over to the goat. And as soon as you did, the priest would slit its throat, catch the blood in the basin, and put it on the

altar. That goat or that lamb died as a substitute for you! Its blood was shed instead of your blood. There was made then this covering for your sin.

- **So, Jesus Christ came as my sin offering and God laid on Him all of my sin, all of my guilt and then He died for me!** Thus, the righteousness of God is satisfied in that there has been death for sin. But because of the grace of God, I did not die for my sin, but Jesus died for my sin! God **freely declares me innocent of all the charges because they have been paid for** in the death of Jesus Christ!

Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- **The righteous demands of God have been satisfied, fully paid for, at the cross!** God can now declare me innocent! He exonerates me because of my faith in Jesus Christ. Wow!
- **He might be just and the justifier.** The wisdom of God's plan allowed Him to punish Jesus in the place of sinners and thereby justify those who are guilty, without compromising His justice. Absolutely phenomenal!

Rom 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

- **Where is boasting then? Can I go around and tell you how good I am?** All I can say is that I am a poor, wretched, miserable, sinner, but Jesus died for me. He paid it all! All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, but He washed it white as snow. The boasting is eliminated because it is not by my righteousness that I am saved. It is not by my good works.
- **I am saved by my simple faith and trust in Jesus Christ, clinging to Him and His works!** God said, "Exonerated, forgiven!" Paul in writing to the Ephesians said, (*Eph 2:8-9*) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
- **I am so glad for that. For when we get to heaven, we are not going to have to sit around and listen to one another brag over all that they did to get there.** Oh, no! When we get there, we are all going to be surprised. We are just going to sit there and say, wow, isn't Jesus wonderful?! He took all of my sin. He took my guilt! He died for me! By my trusting in Him, God has exonerated me and brought me into His presence that I might be here in the kingdom of God forever! Oh, praise the name of Jesus!
- **Where is boasting? It is excluded. By what law? works? No, no, no.** If I were saved by works then boasting is there? *No, but by the law of faith.* It is by the law of faith. Because it is not what I have done but what I believe that God accounted me righteous.

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. (Without rules and regulation)

Rom 3:29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,

Rom 3:30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

- **No, we do not negate the law of God! We establish the law of God.** It was the thing that showed us our helplessness. It was the thing that revealed to us that we could not do it on our own, that we needed to reach outside of ourselves with the help of Jesus Christ! It was the law that drove me to Jesus Christ. To cause me to put my trust and faith in Him because I realized that I could not keep the law!
- **So, I have established the law. It is validity in fulfilling the purpose for which God gave it and that is to reveal what sin is** to me so that I might know that I am guilty, and I need God's help! Thus, seeking the help of God, believing in Jesus Christ, I am justified apart from the

works of the law or apart from certain rules that would make me feel, well, I am righteous because I do this, and I do that. I am righteous **because I believe** in Jesus Christ!

- **But aren't you opening the door then for me to do anything?** Well, I do anything I want. But what I want is to please Him more than anything else! I am now bound by another law, not of rules and regulations, but the law of love. For the love of Christ, Paul said, constrains me! That is the thing that pressures me to live the right life. I love Him so much and He loves me so much, that I do not want anything to come between us. I want to do those things that please Him and not do anything that would be displeasing to Him. It is the love of Christ that draws me.
- **I actually live by a much higher standard than I would if I were under rules.** Because human nature being such as it is, if there are rules by which I am regulated and held in check, I am always going to find a way to bend the rules! To push the limit. How far can I go? That is the way it is when you are under the law. You are always pushing the limits. But when you are under this bondage of love, oh man, **it is not how close can I live to the world** and still be a Christian **but how close can I live to Jesus!** Held by the bonds of love! A great place to be!
- **When you know and discover the grace of God which we will be discovering more and more** as we continue on in Romans, your love for the Lord is just going to increase as you realize what God by grace has wrought for you! What He has done for you and what He is planning to do for you who by simple faith in Jesus Christ have come to trust in Him!!!

KEY POINTS:

- **The first work of the apostle was to bring the whole world under the judgment of God,** guilty, helpless. as we have seen in studying *Chapter 1:18-3:20*. In vs. 1-8, we see **God's judgment is defended!** In vs. 9-20, we see that **indeed, "all have sinned!"**
- **His second task, most blessed to us, is to reveal God's coming out in righteousness at the cross to us.**
- **God's Righteousness Through Faith**– In vs. 21-26, we see the wonderful two words, **"But now!"** giving us a great contrast, moving out of the night into the day! Having shown the impossibility of gaining righteousness by human effort, he turns to explain the **righteousness that God Himself has provided.**
- **How can I now be saved? Justified freely** by Your grace through our faith in Jesus Christ!
- **I stand before God righteous.** Not by the works that I have done, which have nothing to do with my righteousness. God counts me righteous because of my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, *whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness... that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
- **God accounts my faith for righteousness.** God's question is, what did you do with My Son who died for you on the cross? Believing in Jesus Christ, God looks at me as righteous, in Christ Jesus, imputed to me because of my faith in Jesus!
- **Boasting Excluded** – vs. 27-31 Boasting is eliminated because it is not by my righteousness.
- **What love!** (*1Jn 3:1*) *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*
- **May we love Him because He first loved us! May we serve Him because we love Him!**

I WILL SERVE YOU (THEE) – Gaither – Pastor Chuck Smith (2:03-1:59)

I will serve You Because I love You. You have given life to me
I was nothing until You found me You have given life to me
Heartaches, broken people Ruined lives are why You died on Calvary
Your touch is all I long for You have given life to me (2X)

You have given life to me!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 4!