



Main Passage: Romans 3

Theological Theme

The essence of God's plan for the redemption of man is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. There is nothing anyone can do to earn this righteousness and, because we are all sinners, no one deserves it. That is why Paul described it as a gift.

Introduction

- ❓ When was the last time you were completely embarrassed? If you're honest, do you ever get embarrassed about your faith?
- ❓ What are some reasons a person might be ashamed of the gospel?

1. Tough Questions (Romans 3:1-8)

All Scripture is true and given to us so that we can know God and live for Him. In the book of Romans, Paul spells out some of the most basic and foundational theology of the gospel. Using a thorough and strategic approach, Romans gives the big picture of the gospel while explaining salvation in a deep and personal way. In chapter three, Paul addressed some questions that might have been of concern to His audience.

- ❓ How did Paul's background as a Jew give him more credibility to communicate this message? What unique opportunities has God given you to share with others?
- ❓ What are some possible objections to or misrepresentations of the gospel in the world today? How might we answer them?
- ❓ Application: Where are you tempted to twist the message of the gospel for your own benefit? How is God speaking to you about that?

2. Bad News (Romans 3:9-20)

Referencing several Old Testament passages, Paul explained the problem for mankind. He pointed out that whether Jewish, Gentile, free, enslaved, poor, or rich, that the sad fact is we are all sinners and we deserve judgment. This has been the case since the Genesis 3 when sin entered the world. As these verses make

abundantly clear, no one is exempt, and no one is righteous by nature. Apart from God, no person does anything completely in accord with God's holy standard. There is no hope in our flesh because we have all been tainted by sin.

- ❓ Which phrase that Paul used stands out to you most and why? How do you receive these descriptors as true about you (at least at one time)? Why do these words offend us?
- ❓ How has it impacted you to clearly see the bad news of your life to accept the good news of the gospel?
- ❓ Application: From this perspective, how are we free to confess our sin without feeling the need to justify or cover for ourselves?

3. Redemption (Romans 3:21-31)

Imagine receiving the greatest gift without any need to work, pay, or earn in any fashion. That is exactly the imagery Paul used as he described the righteousness of God as a gift. As amazing as it is, the gift we receive through faith in Jesus is not the result of anything we can possibly do. It is described as a gift for a reason.

- ❓ What makes us uncomfortable about the fact that salvation is free? What makes us want to try to earn it somehow?
- ❓ Ironically, Paul ended this chapter by saying that those who have been freed from the law actually uphold the law. How have you experienced this reality that a right understanding of the gospel always impacts the way we live?
- ❓ Application: How are you personally confronted by this passage? How will you respond?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where are you prone to depend on your own goodness to receive God's favor? Why is this always a problem?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage one another in the truth of the gospel regularly?
- ❓ Who will you seek a gospel conversation with based on the truths of today's