

Study 3

NONE RIGHTEOUS

Romans 3

In The Group

- ◆ Who have you shared with what you've learned from these studies so far?
- ◆ What can you thank God for in the past two weeks?
- ◆ Who has blessed you in the last two weeks?

I was 15 years old when I first read the entire Epistle To The Romans. Even though I had attended church all of my life, it was Romans that held up a mirror to my soul and exposed my despicable condition. I was spiritually bankrupt.

1. Some people teach that God has two means of salvation today: the “Abrahamic Covenant” for Jews, and the “New Covenant” for Christians. Reading Romans 3:1-4, does Paul teach that Jews don't need to turn to Christ?
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2. How does Romans 3:9 show that both Jews and Gentiles share the same need for Christ's atonement? (see also Rom. 3:28-29)
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The word “Gospel” is the English translation of the Greek word, *evangel* which means ‘good news’. In order for people to understand why the Gospel is truly ‘good news’, they must first appreciate the very *bad* news. The Gospel itself contains an announcement of mankind's true condition. We are lost, dead, in darkness, evil, rebellious, treacherous, enemies of God. When sharing the Gospel with someone, it is simply not possible to avoid this ‘front end’ of the Gospel.

3. There are only two ways to be made right with God. The first is to have Jesus bear the penalty of your sin and guilt on the Cross and receive the salvation He offers. The second is to never sin. According to Romans 3:10, how many people are in the second category?
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Mankind, left to our own devices, does not *naturally* seek after God (Rom. 3:11) since our sinfulness causes to treat the real God as our Enemy (Rom. 5:10).

4. We often describe some people as “good” and even ourselves as “not that bad”, yet Romans 3:12 states there is *none* good. Why do you think there is a contradiction between man’s opinion of our spiritual and moral condition compared to the Bible’s statement in this verse?
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The revelation that mankind is “fallen” (sinful by nature) is not just a New Testament idea. It is clearly described in the Old Testament. In fact, Romans 3:10-18 is quoting Psalm 14:1-3.

5. Once the Holy Spirit has opened your ‘eyes’ (a metaphor for *your understanding*) you view your life and the world around you differently. How does this contrast with the statement in Romans 3:18 about those still enslaved by their sinfulness?
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There were four types of *Laws* in the Old Testament: Food Laws, Civil Laws, Ceremonial Laws, and Moral Laws. When Paul uses the term *Law* he is sometimes referring to Ceremonial Laws of animal sacrifices and priestly rituals. But when he is talking about the Law *revealing what sin is*, he is usually referring to the Moral Law (the Ten Commandments). *The Ceremonial Laws revealed the penalties for breaking the Moral Law.*

6. Some people argue that the Bible’s Laws don’t apply to non-believers. According to Romans 3:19, who is under the Moral Law?
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7. What is the purpose of the Moral Law according to Romans 3:20b?
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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

We usually think that the Law has no place in sharing the Gospel of Grace with anyone today. Yet it is from a knowledge of the Law that an awareness of sin comes (Rom. 3:20). For the person who thinks that they are *not that bad* or that they are even a *good* person, the Law, Charles Spurgeon said, was like “ten great cannons pointed at the sinner”. For the person who thinks they do not need God’s forgiveness, the Law will reveal to them their dire need.

1. You shall have no other God apart from Me
2. You shall not make for yourself a god
3. You shall not take the Lord’s Name in vain
4. You shall keep the Sabbath as holy and do no work on it
5. Honour your father and mother
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not covet

Asking someone, “If you were to die right now, would you be going to heaven?” may get a response predicted by Romans 3 (“Sure I would, I’m a good person!”). To which you might ask, *Have you ever stolen anything?* If they answer truthfully, their answer will be, “Yes.” *What do you call people who steal things?* Would God let thieves into Heaven? You can do this sort of thing with each of the Commandments to apply the principle of Romans 3:20 ~ *the Law brings a knowledge of sin.*

8. What is the Gospel asking you to accept before it proclaims the Good News to you, based on Romans 3:23?
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To be justified is to be *declared* innocent not necessarily to be *made* innocent. That is, we are guilty - even after we receive the grace of God's forgiveness of our sins, we are still guilty sinners *who have been declared innocent because of the blood of Jesus Christ* (Rom. 3:24-25).

9. If God is such a loving and forgiving God, why couldn't He just forgive and forget our sins? See Romans 3:25-26.

At the heart of sin is an arrogance that deceives the sinner into trusting in themselves for their salvation. The counter appeal of the Gospel is to abandon this utter foolishness in favour of trusting Christ. Paul uses the word "faith" like we use the word *trust*. By trusting ourselves to be good enough to meet God's standard of moral perfection, we are adding to our sinful condition and the Gospel calls us to stop this sinning by acknowledging that we cannot save ourselves and that only Jesus Christ can.

10. Since we cannot be saved by keeping the Moral Law, and since Christ has died for our sins caused by breaking the Moral Law, do we still have to keep the Moral Law according to Romans 3:31? Explain.

11. What have you particularly gained from this study?

12. Who might you be able to teach this study to over the next two weeks?

13. Based on the lessons in this study, write out your prayerful response to God-

Amen.