

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
ROMANS 3:1-20

Main Point

Righteousness is a direct result of faith in Jesus Christ and is not predicated on our works of good deeds, nor is it subjective as we are all sinners and fall short of God's glory.

Introduction

Share a story from your childhood when you did something that damaged your home or room in some way. Did you admit fault? Did you try and fix the damage yourself?

Do you tend to struggle more with guilt over your sinfulness, or do you attempt to "pay God back"?

Paul got the bad news over with first in his letter to the Romans—we can't fix our spiritual problem. We can't pay God back or earn His favor. From 1:18 through 3:20 he painted a drastic, but accurate, picture of the spiritual and moral condition of the human race. Then in verse 21, he begins to paint a picture that is altogether different and superior. Our only hope of righteousness is in Christ alone.

Understanding

Read Romans 3:1-8

What two "absolutely not" questions/statements does Paul make in verses 1-8? In your own words, how would you describe God from these verses?

3:1 It might seem from chapter 2 that being a Jew and being circumcised conferred no _____

3:2 It is a great privilege to be Jewish—_____

3:3 Even if some of the Jewish people _____

3:4 David confessed in [Psalm 51:4](#) that God is _____ in His judgments. God **must be true**, for it would be against His infinitely perfect nature to be otherwise.

3:5-8 People who think otherwise deserve _____ for their true focus is not on glorifying God but on giving free reign to their sinful desires.

What religious activities are we tempted to rely on as the basis of our justification before God?

How do people often react when they see a well-known Christian leader exposed for sinful activities?

How is people's faith in God sometimes affected by the public sins of Christian leaders?

In what practical ways can our lives be changed by the belief that God's promises will never change?

Understanding

Read Romans 3:9-20

In your own words, how would you describe the condition of people from verses 9-20?

3:9 All the world is _____

3:10-18. No one is righteous; no one _____, and _____.
Man is quick to _____.

3:19 God will judge _____. In God's court, everyone is speechless.

3:20 No one can earn justification by obedience to the law's requirements. The law was never intended to be a means of salvation. A primary purpose of the law was to reveal sin in its full scope, thus pointing to man's need for the gift of righteousness.

These verses seem hopeless for humankind; however, verse 20 offers hope in the midst of the hopeless situation. We cannot be justified by the law. We can't earn our salvation—how is this a good thing?

Thankfully, the story doesn't end there. Just as Paul began chapter 3, pointing out God's faithfulness and justifying righteous wrath, he later picks up those glorious truths again in verse 21. We cannot earn our salvation; yet God, in His faithfulness, provides the way of righteousness to us through His Son.

Application

What do we learn about God's character from this passage? In contrast, what do we learn about our character?

Is there a sin in your life that causes you to question if God sees you as righteous? How can you incorporate the truth of this lesson into your life to help combat those feelings this week?

Is there anything you might be doing subconsciously as a way to earn righteousness? What do you need to do differently to approach that area of your life appropriately?

Who in your life needs to be encouraged to accept God's righteousness rather than trying to earn it or living with guilt? How can you help them this week?

Additional Notes: _____

