

sermon study guide

Sermon Summary (see next page for discussion questions)

“Romans” Part 7: God’s Great Gift

November 27/28, 2021

Dr. Henry Schorr

In the first two chapters of Romans, Paul describes three types of people: the REBELLIOUS, the RESPECTABLE and the RELIGIOUS. All three have a sin problem that hinders an authentic friendship with God and results in the requirement to face His wrath and judgment.

God’s love demands His justice and wrath. When God sees the hurt and destruction caused by sin, His anger is motivated by His love in providing the only solution to the sin problem that we cannot provide for ourselves. So often we can turn to religious activities such as baptism, communion and church attendance to gain acceptance from God. We can make excuses or compare ourselves with others to make ourselves look righteous. But on judgment day, when the truth of God will be clear, we will be silent because we will see how short we fall of God’s perfect holiness.

However, God has made the way for us to be saved from His wrath.

Salvation is from God (Romans 3:21) God’s righteousness means that He has a standard of perfection which requires His wrath on sin. But out of God’s righteousness flows His love, compassion and grace which compel Him to make a way for His justice to be satisfied and at the same time provide a way for everyone to be made righteous. God’s love initiated our salvation when we were facing condemnation and His wrath.

Salvation is unearned (Romans 3:20) The law, including the Ten Commandments, are not instructions for earning salvation. They are given to make us aware of our sinfulness and our need for a Savior (Galatians 3:24). The law is like a mirror in that a mirror can make one aware that their face needs to be washed, but the mirror does not make their face clean.

Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22) Sin results in standing condemned and powerless before God but faith in Christ results in standing with absolute and eternal righteousness before God. Faith is required but it is Christ’s death and resurrection that saves. Putting faith in Christ results in entrusting your entire life in full surrender to Him.

Salvation is undeserved (Romans 3:21) Although it is unmerited and undeserved, salvation through Christ by faith results in having a perfect standing before God. Justification is more than just forgiveness because it changes our standing before God from guilty to guiltless.

Salvation comes to us through the sacrifice of Jesus (Romans 3:25a) Salvation is offered to us freely but it was very costly because Jesus died to provide it for us. His death provided us with **redemption** (v. 23). Redemption means to release by paying a ransom. Sin had its power over us and Jesus’ death paid our ransom to set us free when we were powerless. His death also **atoned** for our sins (v. 25) Atonement (or propitiation) means satisfied. The result of sin is death (Romans 6:23), which is eternal separation from God. This, though, is no longer necessary because of Christ’s death and resurrection.

God is both just and merciful, meaning He must judge for sin and provide forgiveness at the same time. This was accomplished when Jesus took God’s wrath for sin upon Himself when He suffered and died on the cross in our place as a demonstration of His love and mercy.

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Discussion Questions

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IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is the most adventurous activity that you participated in? What did you have to put your faith in while doing this activity (for example, a piece of equipment, a guide, etc.)?
2. Tell of a time you were caught red handed. What was your response? What were the consequences? Was someone else willing to accept the punishment/fault for your transgression?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 3:21-25a

3. Pastor Henry introduced these Scriptures as one of the most powerful, life-changing paragraphs in all of Scriptures. Some of the key words are: “Law”, “righteousness”, “faith”, “justified”, “atonement”. Why are each of these words key to understanding the salvation God offers?
4. The Law not only condemns our actions, showing us where we go wrong, without excuse or hope; it also shows that we must trust in the sacrifice of Jesus to take away our sins. How do we see both God’s justice and love in the Law? In the sacrificial death of Christ?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Henry pointed out that God’s Great Gift of salvation is: From God, unearned, through faith in Jesus Christ, and undeserved. Which of these has been, or may still be, difficult to grasp or accept?
6. We do nothing to earn our salvation; but God declares us righteous by our faith when we believe in Jesus, who by dying in our place redeemed us by paying the penalty for our sins. Discuss how these truths enrich your life and your relationships.

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 3:21-25a

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

From this study what do you need to be reminded of? That we all have fallen short of the glory of God? That we are made right with God, not by our own efforts? That Jesus’ sacrifice makes us wholly righteous in God’s sight? Pray that God would bring home the reality, assurance, and wonder of his salvation in your life. If you have never committed your life to Jesus, are you willing to do so now? If so talk with your leader(s) about this now.