

LESSON 7: ROMANS 3:1-4:25

Righteousness, the Law, and Faith

1. What advantage has the Jew? And of what value is circumcision (v. 1-2)? What point is Paul making here?
2. And again, what's Paul's point in his discussion of faithfulness in verses 3-4? And again, what point does he go on to make in the following verses?
3. Let's follow his argument in verses 5-6, and then 7-8? What's his point in all this?
4. Who do you think he might be referring to in verse 8 when he mentions slanderous charges being made against the Christians? Why might someone make that charge? Might they do it today? How do we, at Faith Church, answer that charge?
5. Paul asks whether the Jews were any better off than the Gentiles, and then went on to answer his own question (v. 8). Explain his answer. And, well, in what way might in fact one say that the Jews were better off?
6. Paul charges both Jews and Gentiles of being lost in sin (v. 9). How does Scripture support this charge? How are we to understand the world in this view (see verses 10-18)?
7. How can the statements in these verses be reconciled with the fact that some pagans seem to seek after God and lead exemplary lives? What function does the Law serve (v. 20)?
8. Paul does not discuss the grace of God (3:21-5:21) until he has discussed the judgment of God (1:18-3:20). The good news is not proclaimed until after the bad news is understood. Why does Paul follow this order?

9. How do you compare Paul's understanding of evangelism with twentieth century methods of proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ?

10. Imagine a courtroom scene with God as the judge and the world on trial. From what you have so far studied in Romans, summarize the charges, the supporting evidence, and the verdict against us.

11. How is the righteousness of God (vv. 22-24) different from a righteousness which comes on by the Law (see 2:5-13)?

12. What does it mean to fall short of the glory of God?

13. In a court of law, a person who is "justified" is declared by the judge to have no legal charges against him. Given what we have read in 1:18-3:20, what makes your justification remarkable? What does it mean to you to be justified? What does your justification cost you, what does it cost God?

14. What did the death of Jesus demonstrate? Why can't God overlook sin? What does this say about his character?

15. Why must redemption (v. 24) and propitiation (v. 25) both be a part in your rescue from sin? Where does faith fit into God's way of righteousness?

16. List the six questions in vv. 27-31. What principles of justification can be identified? Define salvation as described in vv. 21-31.

Abraham's Example

1. According to Paul, how were Old Testament saints, such as Abraham and David, justified? How do you know this same fact (4:1-8)?
2. What are some of the differences between justification by faith and by works (vv. 1-12)?
3. How does Paul refute the idea that unless a person is circumcised he has no hope of being saved?
4. The word "believe" is crucial word to this chapter. What did Abraham believe about God? How was this reflected in his life (vv. 13-25)?
5. What must you believe in order to be justified? How is it to be reflected in your life?
6. What is the purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection?
7. In what sense are our sins the cause of Jesus' death? (See 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5-11.)
8. How can a sinful person be acceptable to a holy God?
9. Why do people find it easier to accept the idea of "works righteousness" rather than "faith righteousness"? What is the relationship, if any, between the two?

Fallenness of the world (reality and pervasiveness of sin) 1
Jews not free of this -- not saved because know the law 2

What advantage? Much! 1-2
Oracles! To know God's will (but to know doesn't mean to do) 2
Unfaithful? But God is faithful! Even in judgment (it's as he said) 3-4
But what about this judgment thing:
If we end up doing God's will, isn't God unrighteous to inflict wrath? 5
No, needed to judge world. 6
But again: why me a sinner, if so? Why not do evil? 7-8
Are Jews better off? No, all under sin 9
None righteous! 10-18
Law reveals sin, stops mouths, shows accountability 19
What then is advantage of Law?
Consists in this knowledge of fallenness and need of grace!
By law no one justified! (law brings knowledge of sin) 20

Righteousness of God apart from law now (borne witness to) 21
through faith in JC for all who believe; no distinction 22

until now, righteousness in judgment! now righteousness in grace!
conformity to his word (judgment on Christ, righteousness to us)

all have sinned 23
justified through redemption, propitiation, received by faith 24-25
passed over until Christ 25
just and justifier 26
no boasting! law of faith 27