

The Book of Romans  
"Freely by His Grace"  
Romans 3  
Pastor John Honold  
March 23, 2024

*(last week) 28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.*

[Romans 2:28-29 esv]

- I. The Unchanging Faithfulness and Righteousness of God [Romans 3:1-8]
  - A. Advantage of being a Jew?
    - 1. Entrusted with the Word of God through the Prophets [2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pe 1:21]
    - 2. Salvation comes from the Jews [John 4:22; Mk 12:35-37; Luke 1:32]
    - 3. Circumcision, the Sign of the Covenant [Ex 17:10] [2024? Water Baptism](#)  
[[Matt 28:19](#); [Ro 6:3-4](#)]
  - B. The Unchanging Faithfulness and Righteousness of God  
[2 Tim 2:13; Mal 3:6; Jer 23:6; Heb 13:8; Jas 1:17]
  - C. Deep Spiritual Deception regarding Jesus as the Messiah  
[Ro 1:25; 2 Thes 2:10-12; 1 John 2:21-22]
- II. All Have Sinned; No One is Righteous [Romans 3:9-20]
  - A. [3:10-12] How the human heart appears to God – no one righteous, no one understands, act worthless, no kindness [Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3]
  - B. [3:13] Three powerful images concerning the evil of human speech: throats open graves, deceptive tongues, snake poison on lips [Ps 5:9; 140:3]
  - C. [3:14] The speech of ungodly people is filled with deceit and fraud; what they say reveals the true character of their hearts [Ps 10:7; Matt 12:34-37]
  - D. [3:15-17] God withheld His help from Israel because they had become cruel, selfish, and deceitful, with a willingness to commit violence [Isa 59:7-8]
  - E. [3:18] Wickedness is not something people do accidentally, but rather is something they deliberately plan; the absence of the fear of God – that HE is Holy, Righteous, and worthy of all glory, honor, and praise -- is the root of sin [Ps 36:1]
  - F. [3:19-20] Therefore, no one is declared righteous before God and are without excuse [Ro 1:20]

III. Freely by His Grace [Romans 3:21-31]

A. **Jesus Christ is Righteousness Manifested** [1 Cor 1:30; 1 John 4:9]

B. **We Become Righteous through Faith in Jesus Christ** [2 Cor 5:21; Gal 2:16]

1. All have sinned and fall short of God's standard of absolute moral perfection [Ps 51:1-4]
2. **Justified** "just-as-if-I'd-never sinned": a legal term signifying to acquit, declare righteous, show to be righteous [Ro 5:1; 5:9; 8:30; 8:33; Titus 3:7]
3. **Redemption**: a release secured by the payment of a ransom, deliverance, setting free. A deliverance through Christ from evil and the penalty of sin. The price paid to purchase that liberation was His shed blood [Eph 1:7; Heb 9:15]
4. **Propitiation**: the "mercy seat" (literally, the place of satisfaction) in the tabernacle – the gold lid on the top of the Ark of the Covenant-- where the blood was poured. Jesus appeased the wrath of God on account of sin. By means of the atoning death of Christ, God can be merciful to the sinner who believes in Jesus and reconciliation is effected.  
[Heb 9:5; 10:12-14; Ex 25:17-22; Lev 16:2,13-15; 1 John 2:2; 4:10]
5. **Freely by His Grace**: "a favor done out of the spontaneous generosity of God's Heart of love with no expectation of return." (K. Wuest) Without any cost to me by the unconditional love and kindness of Jesus Christ [Eph 2:8-9; Ro 2:4]

C. [3:27-28] We are justified by faith apart from the Law

D. [3:29-31] The Law is our guardian that identifies sin and leads us to Jesus Christ  
It remains the Word of God that defines Righteousness, Holiness, and Truth  
[Gal 3:24; 2 Tim 3:16-17]

IV. 2024: "The River Has Moved" A Daily Decision to Believe that God is Good  
[Hebrews 10:22]