



## Part 4: What's the Bible's Bottom Line?

Last week, Paul said we all have a universal problem with sin-- whether we're rebellious, respectable, or religious, we're all in the same boat.

### Q&A: Paul anticipates 3 objections

Q: "If 'religion' doesn't save me, should I be ashamed of my religious heritage?"

A: Romans 3:1-4

Q: "If God loves to forgive people, why not give him a chance to do what He loves so much?!"

A: Romans 3:5-8

Q: "So... are you saying you're better than anyone else, since you pointed all this out?"

A: Romans 3:9-20

### The bottom line: God's good news!

#### 5 awesome facts!

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"... a righteousness from God apart from the Law... the Law and Prophets testify" v. 21

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe ..." v. 22

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" v. 23

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
"... and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ..." v. 24

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
"God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in His blood..." v. 25

### 3 consequences:

• **No reason for** \_\_\_\_\_  
"Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded." v. 27, 28

• **No reason for** \_\_\_\_\_  
"Is God the God of the Jews only? Is he not the God of the Gentiles too?" v. 29, 30

• **No reason for** \_\_\_\_\_  
"Do we nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! rather, we uphold the law!" v. 31

### The cycle of selfishness:



The only way to break this cycle? For someone other than me to do an entirely selfless act on my behalf (therefore this act is not tainted by any selfish motives), and for me to accept this as a free gift-- and then make my rescuer the Lord of my life rather than my own Self.

### Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought-provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

**This week's memory verses:** "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify." Rom. 3:20-21

## Monday

Read back over Romans 3 and your notes from last weekend. Write down three things that stand out to you from the text and from the sermon.

How are you sometimes tempted to test God's grace?

Write down one thing you learned from last weekend and how you will apply it to your life. How could this impact your life?

*Thank God for the Bible and its honesty. Thank Him for the opportunity to learn and grow in spiritual maturity. Ask Him to help you apply what you've learned to your life.*

## Tuesday

Reread Romans 3:1-8. How did God show His favor to the Jews (vs. 1-2)?

What religious activities have you been tempted to rely on to prove your worth to God?

\_\_\_\_\_ "I go to church every week."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I give my money to the church."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I belong to a small group."  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Recall a time when you were unfaithful to God but He remained faithful to you. What did you learn through that? How did it impact your perspective on God and His love for you?

*Thank God today for His faithfulness. Thank Him that His love for you does not depend on what you do or produce. Ask God to help you live in His grace and reflect that to those around you.*

## Wednesday

Reread Romans 3:9-20. From verses 10-18, make a list of what Paul says regarding human thought, speech and action.

Suppose Romans ended with verse 20. How would you feel about yourself? How would you feel about God?

What is the purpose of the Law? How have you seen the truth of this in your life?

*Thank God today that Rom. 3:20 is not the end of the story. Thank God for the plumbline the Bible provides you with. Ask God to guide your steps today and help you make wise choices.*

## Thursday

Read Romans 3:21-31. The key words in this section are justification, redemption, and atonement. Look up these words in the dictionary and use an everyday example to illustrate them.

Justification:

Redemption:

Atonement:

How does your life in Christ illustrate the key words here?

What makes it difficult for you to believe that you can gain God's forgiveness by faith in Christ alone?

*Thank God today for the truth of these verses. Ask Him for the faith to relax in His grace today.*

## Friday

Reread Romans 3:21-31. How does your life in Christ illustrate the truth of these verses? What impact is it having on your life right now?

*Even these devotions can become mere ritual! Make this one a real time of prayer and praise. Worship God for His mercy!*

## Saturday

*Today, polish the memory verse at the top of the previous page, and read Romans 4 in preparation for the weekend services. Thank God for His love for you and His mercy. Ask Him to prepare your heart for worship and teaching this weekend.*