

## ROMANS 4

1. How do we condemn ourselves when we judge others?

-Because we do the same things in our hearts.

2. According to God, is sin only with our body?

-No.

-According to God, we can sin on the inside with our hearts even though on the outside our body does nothing.

3. According to God, are there big sins and little sins?

-No.

-According to God, all sins are big.

4. If you give a law to people, does this protect them from disobeying the law?

-No.

5. What is the purpose of a law?

-The purpose of a law is to show people how they must properly live.

6. For the Christian, where does our obedience come from?

-Jesus Christ.

7. How is all sin against God?

-Because God created us without sin.

8. Does God forget sins?

-No.

-God sees every sin, and must punish every sin with death.

9. What happens when people refuse to repent?

-God's anger builds up.

-For those who refuse to repent, God's anger builds up like water against a dam.

10. Why can no one obey God completely?

-Because all people are children of Adam and Eve.

-Because all people are born into sin.

-Because sin is more powerful than people.

11. Why did God give us His laws?

-So we could see our sickness, and go to the Doctor, Jesus Christ.

-In the last lesson, the theme was: "All People are Unrighteous Before God."

-In this lesson, we begin with the next theme:

-"The Righteousness of God alone Saves Us."

Let's read Romans 3:21

21-But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the

Prophets testify.

-What does Romans 3:21 teach us?

-That our righteousness comes from God alone.

-Both Paul and God are teaching us that our righteousness comes from God alone apart from the law.

-How does our righteousness come apart from the law?

-Through the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-What does Romans 3:21 mean by the Law and the Prophets?

-The Word of God in the Old Testament.

-To what does the Law and the Prophets testify?

-That our righteousness can never come from ourselves and therefore, must come from God.

-Does God give us His righteousness because we try and obey His law?

-No.

-As we learned in the last lesson, the purpose of God's law is to show us our sin.

-The Old Testament gives us many examples of how God has given us His righteousness through the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why did God refuse to accept Adam and Eve's clothes of leaves?

-Because Adam and Eve were trying to make themselves righteous before God.

-Because Adam and Eve were trying to provide their own righteousness.

-Except for true Christianity, all religions try to make themselves righteous before God.

-Except for true Christianity, all religions try to provide their own righteousness.

-Who provided the clothes of animal skins for Adam and Eve?

-God.

-Who put the animal skins on Adam and Eve?

-God.

-What is the lesson of God providing animal skins for Adam and Eve and putting the animal skins on them?

-Only God is righteous, and only God can give righteousness to us.

-If you believe in Christ, God has given you His righteousness.

-When God gives believers His righteousness, does this mean that people no longer sin?

-No.

-Even after we believe in Christ and we have the righteousness of Christ, we continue to sin.

-Because God has covered us with the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, God does not condemn us for our sin.

-Because God has covered us with the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, God accepts us as righteous even though we continue to sin.

Let's read Romans 3:22

22-This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference.

-In Romans 3:22, what are God and Paul teaching?

-God and Paul are teaching that the righteousness of God the Father is God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-The Lord Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God the Father and our righteousness as well.

-If we want to understand the righteousness of God the

Father, we only need to look at the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why is this important?

-Because all other religions try to become righteous without the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Because all other religions try to become righteous by their own works.

-If God's righteousness is the Lord Jesus Christ, then should we try to find righteousness somewhere else?

-No.

-If God's righteousness is the Lord Jesus Christ, then should we try to find righteousness by ourselves?

-No.

-What is the only way for both Jews and Gentiles to be accepted as righteous before God?

-Through the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why is this the only way for both Jews and Gentiles to be saved?

-Because all, both Jews and Gentiles, are sinners.

Let's read Romans 3:23

23-For all have sinned and fall short of the glory

of God.

-What does Romans 3:23 teach us?

-That because of sin, all people are the same before God.

-That because of sin, all people are seen by God as needing to be saved.

-That because of sin, all people are deprived of the glory of God which God intended for us.

-We need to see sin as God sees sin.

-If we see sin as the world sees sin, we will never understand.

-If we see sin as God sees sin, then we will understand how much sin hurts us.

-If we see sin as God sees sin, then we will understand how much sin has robbed us of the glory of God which God intended.

Let's read Romans 3:24

24-And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

-What does it mean to be justified?

-To be justified is a two-step process, and both of these steps are from God alone.

-What are the two steps of justification?

-The first step is that God sends our sins to the cross where the blood of Christ has completely paid for them.

-The second step is that God gives us the righteousness of Christ as our own.

-When you are baptized, baptism represents the two steps of justification.

-When you are placed under the water, this is a sign that your sins are being cleansed by the blood of Christ.

-When you come up out of the water, this is a sign that you have been given the righteousness of Christ as your own.

-How many times is a believer justified?

-Only one.

-If we truly repent of our sins, then God has sent our sins to the cross, and has given us the righteousness of Christ.

-If God has given us the righteousness of Christ, will He take it away?

-No.

-If God has saved us from Satan, will He give us back to Satan?

-No.

-If God has saved us, there is no one who can change this.

-If God has saved us, there is nothing which can change this.

-If God has saved us, why can no one or nothing change this?

-Because the blood and death of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most powerful force in all of eternity.

-In Romans 3:24, how does God say that we are justified?

-Freely by God's grace.

-Justification is God's gift which He alone can give.

-Can we pay for a gift?

-No.

-We can never pay for a gift.

-Why can we never pay for a gift?

-Because a gift will not allow you to pay for it.

-Because a gift is freely given.

-If we try and pay for a gift, we are spitting in the face of the one who is giving the gift.

-How does Romans 3:24 say that we are justified freely by grace?

-“Through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

-What is redemption?

-To redeem means to save, to deliver, or to buy back.

-To redeem means that Jesus has bought us, and that He has bought us for Himself.

-When Paul wrote this letter, Rome had conquered other countries.

-When Rome conquered these other countries, many people from those countries became slaves of the Romans.

-Slaves are not free.

-Slaves cannot live where they want to nor can they work for themselves.

-The Romans owned them and could sell them.

-The Romans took them to the slave markets with chains so that they could not escape.

-In the same way, because Adam disobeyed God, we were all born as slaves to sin, death, and Satan, and we could not escape.

-But the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world, the slave market, to redeem us.

-To redeem means that Jesus has bought us, and that He has bought us for Himself.

-The redemption price Jesus paid was His own blood.

-Jesus bought us and then set us free from the control of sin, death, and Satan.

-If we believe in Christ, we will never again be taken back to the slave market.

-If we believe in Christ, we will never again be under the control of sin, death, and Satan.

Let's read Romans 3:25

25-God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

-What is Romans 3:25 teaching us?

-That God the Father gave God the Son, Christ, as a blood sacrifice to pay for our sins.

-In the Old Testament, what did God tell the Israelites to bring as an offering for their sins?

-Animals.

-What did the Israelites do when they brought the animal to be sacrificed?

-They placed one of their hands on the head of the animal, and sacrificed the animal with their other hand.

-What does placing one's hand on the head of the animal mean?

-That the person had sinned, yet was asking God to accept the death of the animal as a payment for their sins.

-Could the blood of the animals pay for the sins of the Israelites?

-No.

-Then why was God asking the Israelites to sacrifice animals?

-The sacrifice of animals was a teaching from God.

-What was God teaching the Israelites when they

sacrificed animals?

-That sin calls for death.

-That sin merits death.

-That sin can only be paid for with death.

-When the chief priest would enter the Holy of Holies one time a year, what must he bring with him?

-The blood of an animal.

-What did the chief priest do with the blood of the animal?

-He would sprinkle it on the ark of the covenant.

-What was God teaching the Israelites and all of us with this?

-That God was accepting the blood of animals as a temporary payment for sin until a permanent payment could be made.

-When the Israelites sacrificed animals to God, God would withhold His punishment for sin if they repented and believed His promise to send a Savior.

-When the Israelites sacrificed animals to God, God would withhold His punishment for sin until a permanent payment could be made.

-God accepted the Israelites as though they were perfectly righteous, even though they were still sinners.

-But how could God forgive these believers during the Old Testament and accept them as righteous?

-How could God not punish Abel, Noah, and Moses who only offered the blood of animals?

-Because they believed that God would send a Savior who would completely pay for their sins.

-Because God knew that He would send the Lord Jesus to die and pay for all of their sins.

-Jesus' death on the cross paid for all sin.

-Jesus' death on the cross paid for those in the past who believed God's promise to send the Savior.

-Many people like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, and David believed God's promises given through the prophets.

-God accepted them as though they were righteous because He knew that Jesus would come to die for their sins.

Let's read Romans 3:26

26-[God] did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

-God does the right thing when He accepts as righteous those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why can God freely forgive and accept as righteous all who believe in Jesus?

-Because Jesus has fully paid the penalty for sin.

Let's read Romans 3:27-28

27-Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

28-For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

-Did we do anything to deserve God's acceptance?

-No.

-Are we accepted as righteous by God because we obeyed the Law?

-No.

-Should believers boast about themselves because God has accepted them?

-No.

-Why should we not boast about ourselves?

-Because we have all tried to keep the law, but cannot.

-Because salvation is completely from God alone.

-Because God has accepted us by faith as a gift.

-We turn from trusting in ourselves to trusting in what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

-Then, we receive God's righteousness as a gift through faith in Jesus.

-We should not boast in ourselves, but rather only thank and praise God.

Let's read Romans 3:29-30

29-Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,

30-since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

-Does God have different ways for different people to be saved?

-No.

-Whether we are Jew or Gentile, white or black, rich or poor, there is only one way to be saved.



-How can people be saved?

-Through faith alone.

-Through faith in what or whom?

-Through faith in the death of Christ as payment for our sin.

Let's read Romans 3:31

31-Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

-Although no one can become righteous before God by the law, does this mean that the law has no use?

-No.

-The law is useful in that it shows us our sin.

-Did God throw away the law when Jesus died?

-No.

-If we cannot keep the law, then why did God not throw away the law when Jesus died?

-Because the law continues to teach us about God and His holiness.

-Because the law continues to teach us about our sin, and our need for repentance.

-Because the law continues to teach us that Christ has paid the punishment which the law demanded.

-Because the law continues to teach us that our righteousness is in Christ alone.

-In the fourth chapter of Romans, God and Paul give us two examples of men who were accepted by God.

-These men were not accepted by God because of their works, but rather because of their faith in God.

Let's read Romans 4:1-3

1-What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?

2-If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.

3-What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

-The Jews regarded Abraham as one of the greatest men in the history of their nation.

-If anyone could be accepted by God for their good works, it would be Abraham.

-Did God accept Abraham as righteous because of his good works?

-No.

-Then why did God accept Abraham?

-Abraham knew that he had sinned against God.

-Abraham knew that his sin must be paid for with death.

-Abraham also knew that God would send the Savior to save him from death.

-Because Abraham believed in God, what did God do for him?

-God gave to Abraham the best gift in the world.

-God gave to Abraham the gift of His righteousness.

-Did Abraham earn his righteousness by what he did?

-No.

-God's righteousness is an undeserved gift from God.

-Can anyone earn righteousness by what we do?

-No.

-God's righteousness is an undeserved gift from God.

Let's read Romans 4:4-5

4-Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

5-However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited

as righteousness.

-After working for an owner of a business, do you receive money as a gift or as a payment for your work?

-Payment or wages for which people have worked.

-Yet can anyone earn the righteousness of God?

-Never.

-Paul then reminded the Jews what David believed and wrote about this.

Let's read Romans 4:6-8

6-David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7-"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8-Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

-If Abraham and David could do nothing to be accepted by God, then certainly no one else can.

-God and Paul make it very clear that Abraham and David were accepted as righteous only because of faith.