

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*

Day 1

Study: Romans 3:24-31

Reading: I Corinthians 7:17-24, I Peter 1:13-23

Memory: Matthew 5:12

What Does the Bible Say?

Because all humans are sinners, we, in and of ourselves, have no hope of being found righteous before God. This is why Jesus chose to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. Verses 24 & 25 describe this by using some rich theological terms. The phrase “being justified” is a judicial term that describes how the blood of Christ has caused us to be “declared righteous” before God. This declaration only comes by the gift of God’s grace. The term “grace” means that we are getting something that we don’t deserve because God chooses to give it to us. Not only has God declared us righteous, but He has also redeemed us from sin. The word “redemption” describes how something can be “bought with a price.” Jesus Christ paid the price for your sin when He died on the cross so you wouldn’t have to pay (vs 24).

This justification and redemption could only come about by the willingness that God displayed by sacrificing His Son for you. Jesus Christ became the propitiation for your sin. He was the substitute sacrifice that paid the price for your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus’ death was the only thing that could satisfy God as a payment for the debt that men owed. This gift of grace that was offered to all men by Jesus Christ can only be accepted by faith.

God is a righteous and just God who can’t overlook sin. At the same time, God is a patient God who chose not to bring immediate judgement on the sins of men. God could have destroyed the world after Adam and Eve sinned, yet he chose to be patient and make a way of escape for all men. This is how God demonstrated that He was a just God. God has to punish sin because He is just, but we don’t have to face that punishment because Jesus faced it for us (vs 25-26).

Since man can’t save himself and can only be saved through faith in Jesus Christ, we have no reason to boast in ourselves. No matter how hard we try to work for our salvation or no matter how good we think we are, we



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all fall short of God's demand for perfection (Matt. 5:48). The only law that we have to keep in order to be saved is the law of faith. Faith is placing a total dependence upon God for salvation, realizing that there is nothing that a person can do to earn favor with a just and holy God. Jews and Greeks both have the opportunity to be saved because of faith in the work of Jesus Christ (vs 27-30).

Paul knew that some of the men might think that the Law was then useless if it didn't need to be kept in order to be saved. He combated this thought by stating "God forbid!" (KJV) or "May it never be!" (NASB). The Law was given for a reason. The Law was never given as a means of salvation, but was given to drive men to God so that they will see their need for a Savior (vs 31).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize what you have in Christ? Do you understand that apart from the work of Jesus Christ you are doomed to an eternity in hell? Many people simply don't want to come to grips with the fact of how unholy they are. They don't want to think that their sin is bad enough to send them to hell. Many religions even teach that you are saved by works and keeping the rules and regulations that the church sets down, but apparently they haven't read these verses. Realizing what you have in salvation should drive you to your knees with an attitude of total thanksgiving to Jesus Christ. It is not hard to be a committed follower of Christ when you realize where you would be without Him. Take some time today to think about how your life and death would be different without Christ and let your love for Him be a motivating factor in your service for Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because He is just.
- * Thank Jesus for His willingness to be your sacrifice.
- * Ask God to help you properly thank Him with your life.

Thought for the day

Day 2

Study: Romans 3:21-22, Galatians 3:1-6

Reading: Galatians 3:7-29

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:21-22

****In the previous verses, Paul described how the law was our "school teacher" which revealed to us our sinfulness and shows us all the areas where we fall short.*

What did Paul say has been revealed to us (vs 21)?

How is it "apart from the law" and at the same time the law "bears witness to it?" (vs 21)?

****No man has ever been able to keep the law because all men are born sinners. God never intended men to follow Him by placing an emphasis on keeping the law. A relationship with God has always been a relationship based on faith. The law was part of God's plan because it revealed who God is and what God desires. It also reveals the great need for man to trust in God by faith.*

How is a person made right with God (vs 22)?

What did Paul mean by "there is no distinction?" (vs 22)?

****In context, we can understand this to mean that there is no difference between the Jews who received the Law and the Gentiles who didn't receive the law. Both groups were born sinners and needed the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ in order to be a true child of God.*

Galatians 3:1-6

Why did Paul call the Galatians foolish (vs 1)?

****The Judaizers had come into the region of Galatia and had convinced many of the churches that they needed to keep the law in order to fully*

please God. The Judaizers were Jews who often followed Paul in an attempt to discredit his ministry and the true Gospel. They taught that Gentiles needed to be circumcised and follow the Jewish tradition in order to maintain a right standing with God. Instead of experiencing the freedom that salvation should bring, they were being trapped in a religion that taught you had to earn your standing with God. Paul called them foolish because they had allowed the teaching of Jesus to be diminished and overtaken by the teaching about the law.

What has Paul emphasized when he first preached salvation to the Galatians (vs 1)?

Why did Paul ask the question he did in verse 2?

How had the believers started in their belief in God (vs 3)?

How were they trying to grow in their belief in God (vs 3)?

****They came to know God by believing in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross. They trusted in the power of the Holy Spirit to lead them and bring salvation to them. Yet, instead of growing in their faith the same way, they were now trying to keep all the ins and outs of the law. This included all the additional things that the Jews had added to the law. They were becoming like the Pharisees who Jesus had often rebuked.*

What had the Galatians experienced as a result of following God (vs 4)?

What point was Paul making in verse 5?

What example did Paul use in verse 6? Why?

****In Romans 4, we will see that Paul directed the attention of the people to Abraham as well.*

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 3

Study: Romans 3:23-24, Ephesians 1:3-10

Reading: Ephesians 1:11-2:10

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:23-24

What condition applies to all men (vs 23)?

What does it mean that all have “fallen short” (vs 23)?

****The only way that a person can be saved by keeping the law is by keeping it perfectly. The only man who ever did this was Jesus Christ. All others have sinned and fall short of this goal, leaving them with a need for some other way to get to God.*

How are men justified (vs 24)?

What does it mean to be justified?

****This term is a judicial term that means “to be declared righteous.” This does not mean that we are righteous on our own, but God has declared those who trust in Him righteous because of their faith in Jesus Christ.*

How is grace a gift (vs 24)?

****This emphasizes that grace is willfully given by God and is not earned by keeping the law.*

What does it mean that we have redemption in Christ (vs 24)?

****The term “redeemed” was one that was used often in the ancient slave market. In order to release a prisoner from slavery, a price had to be paid for their redemption. Often, people would sell themselves into slavery and work until their debt was paid or someone paid it for them. The debt of our sin was so great that we could never work to pay it off. God has paid*

that debt through the blood of Jesus.

Ephesians 1:3-10

What has God blessed us with (vs 3)?

What did He do for us (vs 4)?

What have we been chosen to do (vs 4)?

What does it mean to be predestined (vs 5)?

****There has been great theological debate over this term and idea. The thought can get very complex, though I don't think God meant it to become as complex as theologians often make it. The point that Paul is making is that believers are special to God because He chose us. He chose us even when we were sinners and enemies apart from Him (Eph 2:1-3).*

What allows us to be accepted by God and part of his family (vs 5-6)?

How are we redeemed (vs 7)?

Why is our need for the grace of God so important to understand (vs 7)?

****We are told that we are redeemed by the riches of his Grace. His grace is unlimited and is poured out upon those who trust in Him. Since we can not earn salvation, we need his grace to be redeemed.*

How abundant is the grace of God on our lives (vs 8)? Explain.

What was God's ultimate plan (vs 9-10)?

****The salvation of man had been carefully crafted and planned by God.*

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 4

Study: Romans 3:25-26, I John 2:1-6

Reading: Leviticus 16:1-34

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:25-26

What does it mean that Jesus was our "propitiation" (vs 25)?

****Though several versions do not use this word, the ESV along with other literal translations have chosen to keep the English word, probably because of its deep significance. The word means to appease or placate. The Greek word was also translated in the KJV as "mercy seat." It indicates that Jesus was the substitute who paid the price for our sin. His death on the cross and the blood that he shed appeased God. Because God is just, He required that a price be paid for sin. Jesus was that price and His blood placated God, and God's judgement is no longer directed towards those who have faith in the finished work of Jesus.*

What do you think the end of verse 25 means?

****Though people sinned before Jesus came to deliver them from their sin, God knew that He would send a propitiation for them. In His foreknowledge and patience He spared those who by faith believed in the deliverance that He offered to them. The mercy seat on the ark of the covenant was set up to be an example of the propitiation that Jesus would bring. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would go in to the Holy of Holies and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat, making atonement for the sins of the people. This was looking ahead to the one Day when Jesus would become the ultimate propitiation.*

How was the righteousness of God shown by allowing those before Christ to be saved by believing in the atonement that was to come (vs 26)?

****Since Jesus had not come yet, the Old Testament believers could not fully believe in Him. Yet, because God is a just God and justifies those who believe in Him, He counted their faith in their need for God's mercy and*

forgiveness sufficient for salvation. This faith was expressed by the offering of sacrifices with the shedding of blood that would cover sin.

I John 2:1-6

Why was John writing to the believers (vs 1)?

Though we should strive to live holy, what do we need to understand when we sin (vs 1)?

What is an advocate (vs 1)?

****Jesus is pleading on our behalf before God.*

What had Christ become for our sin (vs 2)?

What does it mean that Jesus was the propitiation for the sin of the whole world (vs 2)?

****This does not mean that everyone is saved from their sin, but that Jesus died for the sins of all men. As we have seen in Romans, only those who accept this gift by faith are delivered from God's judgement.*

How can a person know if he had become a child of God and has been forgiven of his sins (vs 3)?

****Notice that keeping his commandments is an evidence of salvation, not a prerequisite for salvation.*

How does John describe those who say they know God but don't choose to obey His commandments (vs 4)?

What is produced in the lives of those who truly know God (vs 5)?

What should be one of your main desires in life (vs 6)?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Day 5

Study: Romans 3:27-28, I Corinthians 1:18-31

Reading: Galatians 4:1-31

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:27-28

How does salvation by faith exclude our ability to boast in our religious efforts (vs 27)?

Why do people think that the more they do for God, the more they will be accepted by Him?

What are ways that you have thought or felt this?

How is a person justified (vs 28)?

How is a person not justified (vs 29)?

I Corinthians 1:18-31

What does faith appear to be to many people (vs 18)?

What is it to those who believe (vs 18)?

What fact was Paul quoting when he quoted Isaiah 29:14 (vs 19)?

What has God done to the wisdom of the world (vs 20)?

What do you think this means?

****Many in civilized societies have sought knowledge and this still strongly exists today. Knowledge about this world and how it functions is a very good thing, but people who gain great knowledge often began to trust in their knowledge and that knowledge often turns into foolishness as they try to explain away God. This is very evident today in all the bogus science which makes up stories about evolution.*

How did God choose to bring about salvation (vs 21)?

What did the Jews and Greeks want as proof of God (vs 22)?

What was Paul's message (vs 23)?

Why do you think the simple message of the Gospel is a stumbling block (vs 23)?

What is the Gospel to those who believe (vs 24)?

What does verse 25 reveal about God?

What was the state of many of the people who had believed in Christ (vs 26)?

Who did God choose to become His children (vs 27-28)?

Why did God choose the ones He did (vs 29)?

How are people tempted to boast in their salvation?

****This can still happen today, especially to those who have grown up in Christian homes and have not experienced the filth of the world. It is easy to think that you are better than others and boast in how good you are, just as the Jews did, but miss the fact that you are a terrible sinner.*

What did Jesus become for us (vs 30)?

Why does faith in God give you no reason to boast in your salvation (vs 31)?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Day 6

Study: Romans 3:29-31, Matthew 5:17-20

Reading: Romans 9:1-33

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:29-31

How was God both the God of the Jews and Gentiles (vs 29)?

****If people were saved by the law, God would somewhat be limiting himself to only save those who followed the law. This would have excluded much of the culture of that day and this type of thinking caused great pride and exclusiveness among the Jews.*

How can we act today like the Jews did in that day?

****The "church" can often fall into the same thinking that the Jews did. We can start to think that we are better than the unsaved world around us and start expecting the world to live with the same moral standards and values that Christians live with. Instead of reaching out to a world that is lost, we start looking down on those without Christ and soon find ourselves thinking that we are better than we really are.*

Who will God justify (vs 30)?

What did Paul know the main argument of the Jews would be (vs 31)?
How did he respond?

****Paul knew this would be hard for the Jews to understand. They placed such a great emphasis on the law that a salvation by faith seemed too simplistic and could appear that law meant nothing. Jesus Christ said that he had come to fulfill the law, not abolish it. The law was to point men to Christ, but the Jews had allowed it to turn them away from Christ.*

Matthew 5:17-20

What did Jesus say about the law (vs 17)?

How did Jesus uphold the importance of the law (vs 18)?

****A “jot” and “tittle” would be compared to saying “the dotting of an ‘i’” or “the crossing of a ‘t.’” Jesus was declaring that every bit of the Old Testament was true and that it would not fade away or be changed by His coming. Instead, his life was proof of the truthfulness of the Old Testament.*

What did Jesus want the people to do with the Old Testament (vs 19)?

How do we understand this in light of the way that Paul argued that the Gentiles did not have to keep the law?

****The Old Testament and all the laws that were given were to look forward to Christ. They were never meant to be something that enslaved the people, but something that gave freedom because the people could have a relationship with God.*

What was Jesus saying about the righteousness of the religious leaders (vs 20)?

****In those days, the religious leaders were looked at as having the best chance of making it to heaven because of their righteousness. The idea of having righteousness that was greater than the religious leaders would have been impossible for the common man. The point being made was that no amount of righteousness would be enough for man to make it to heaven. The only righteousness that God would accept is the righteousness that would come by Jesus through His death on the cross.*

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 7

Reading: Romans 3:9-20

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

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Bible Memory

Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.