

Romans Session 7: The Fear of God

Romans 3:1-18

In today's passage, Paul declares that all mankind are sinners. The Jews, who had the privilege of receiving the Word of God, were not able to bear that responsibility. They were sinners in all aspects of their identity and life, no different from strangers who lived without the Word. Paul lists various phenomena that appear due to sinful living. Living a life that is appropriate for the people of God is living with the fear of God.

1. The Jews have received special grace in the history of God's salvation (v. 2). What does it mean to say you are entrusted with word of God? In what way did the Jews fail in keeping this privilege? What is the responsibility of the Christian who has been entrusted with the Word?
2. Paul harshly describes the state of our sinfulness (v. 10-12). When we think about this the other way, we can see the expectations of the believer. How does the life of a believer look like under the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word in Christ?
3. Paul points out the language habits of those who live apart from God (v. 13-14). He says an indication of a true believer is the way one speaks. How do you use language and does it reflect your life in Christ? What should you do so that the way you speak honors God and builds others?
4. There is no fear of God at the heart of every crime (v. 18). What does it mean to be in awe of God? Am I in awe of God? What are some ways so that I can live in awe of God?

Emphasized during the Sunday sermon

- It is God's grace that I genuinely realize my sinfulness. Being in awe of God means living life that is conscious of God in every moment.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.