

Romans Session 8: Not the Law, but the Grace of God

Romans 3:19-31

In today's passage, Paul demonstrates the gospel of salvation through the gospel of judgement. No one in the world can be saved by perfectly keeping the law. The purpose of the law is to make us realize we are sinners but all of our sins are resolved by Christ. There are two important things that Christ has done: the redemption to pay for our sins and the sacrifice of atonement on our behalf. Our salvation is evident only in what Jesus has done by the grace of God.

1. What is the purpose of God's law? (v. 19-20). Why is it impossible to be righteous by keeping the law? How should we understand the law?
2. What is God's plan to save us? (v. 21-22). How does verse 21 ("to which the Law and the Prophets testify") see the Old Testament? What perspective is needed to see Jesus in all of Scripture?
3. What did God do to change us from sin to righteousness? (v. 24-25). What do the words "redemption" and "sacrifice of atonement" mean? When did you realize that Jesus was a sacrifice of atonement for your sin? How should we respond to the sacrifice Christ had made for us?
4. People who have been given new life in Jesus are no longer under the curse of the law. Why then should saved people actively keep the law? (v. 31). What is needed in my life to obey God's Word?

Emphasized during the Sunday sermon

- Romans 3:23-24, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus
- Redemption: the act of paying for and liberating slaves
Sacrifice of atonement: A sacrifice that appeases God's anger towards sinners
- The person who tries to find the path to salvation in anything other than the cross is doubtful of the ability of the cross and rejects God's love