

Let Every Mouth Be Silenced

Romans 3:1-20

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Regardless of who we are, no matter what ethnic group we belong to, no matter how religious we are, no matter how good we are morally—all of us are in need of the righteousness that only God can provide through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Romans: *The Road to Righteousness*

In the book of Romans Paul explains to us how we can obtain a right relationship with God and what that relationship should look like, practically speaking, in our daily lives. Righteousness is a right relationship with God that manifests itself in right living—living in obedience to the Word of God.

- I. Romans 1:1-17 – Introduction to the theme: Righteousness
- II. Romans 1:18-3:20 – Righteousness Needed
- III. Romans 3:21-8:39 – Righteousness Provided
- IV. Romans 9:1-11:36 – Righteousness Rejected
- V. Romans 12:1-16:27 – Righteousness Practiced

In Romans 3:1-20 Paul presses home the fact that righteousness is needed by all men, in all places and at all times.

Romans 1:18-32 – All of humanity has rejected God and the truth of His Word and is therefore rightly deserving of the wrath and judgment of God. (Key Verse: 1:18)

Romans 2:1-11 – Condemnation of the self-righteous hypocrites who stand in judgment of others; those who judge and condemn others are themselves guilty and condemned by God. (Key Verse: 2:1)

Romans 2:12-16 – All people will be judged on the basis of their response to the spiritual light they have received; those who have received the law of God will be judged by the law; those who have never heard the law of God will be judged, not by the law, but by their own conscience. (Key Verse: 2:12)

Romans 2:17-27 – Even the Jews, the chosen people of God, those who were the descendants of Abraham, who had received the law of God and the covenant sign of circumcision, even they were guilty before God. (Key Verse: 2:25)

Romans 2:28-29 – Salvation is not a product or result of religious rites and rituals. Rather, salvation, a right standing before God, is a necessary work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of man. (Key Verse: 2:29a)

Romans 3:1-20 – There are no excuses; all are guilty before God. (Key Verse: 3:20)

“No one will be exempt from God’s judgment on sin. Every person must accept that he or she is sinful and condemned before God. Only then can we understand and receive God’s wonderful gift of salvation.” (*The Life Application Study Bible*, p. 2031).

Romans 3:1-8

- Vss. 1-2 – Of all the people on planet earth, the Jews were the most blessed of all.
- Vss. 3-4 – Even though many of them had rebelled against God and were guilty of spiritual adultery against Him, God remained true and faithful to His promises. (cf. 2 Timothy 2:13)
- Vss. 5-8a – “If our unrighteousness brings out God’s righteousness more clearly, isn’t God being unjust by pouring out His wrath upon us?”
 - God should reward us for our sin, or at least look the other way.
 - This is called “presuming on the grace of God.” Our sinful nature is always looking for an excuse to take control of our lives!
 - “It is far too easy to take Gods’ grace for granted. But God cannot overlook sin. Sinners, no matter how many excuses they make, will have to answer to God for their sin.” (*The Life Application Study Bible, p. 2032*)
 - God cannot and will not overlook sin; His holiness, righteousness and justness will not allow Him to do so.
- Vs. 8b – Those who take such a view are not only wrong in their presumption, they are condemned by God!

Romans 3:9-18

- Paul concludes his argument that righteousness is needed by all. Why is this true? Because all alike are under sin (vs. 9) and there is no one righteous, not even one (vs. 10).
- “Paul uses these Old Testament references to show that humanity in general, in its present sinful condition, is unacceptable before God. Have you ever thought to yourself, ‘Well, I’m not too bad. I’m a pretty good person’? Look at these verses and see if any of them apply to you. Have you ever lied? Have you ever hurt someone’s feelings by your words or tone of voice? Are you bitter toward anyone? Do you become angry with those who strongly disagree with you? In thought, word, and deed you, like everyone else in the world, stand guilty before God. We must remember who we are in his sight—alienated sinners. Don’t deny that you are a sinner. Instead, allow your desperate need to point you toward Christ.” (*The Life Application Study Bible, p. 2032*)

Romans 3:19-20

- The law was never intended to be a means of salvation.
 - 1) It leaves us without excuse before God.
 - a. It reveals the holiness and righteousness of God
 - b. It reveals our sinfulness and inability to save ourselves
 - 2) It holds us accountable to God and shows that we are guilty before Him.
 - a. We are left without excuse and without argument
 - b. We stand before Him condemned and without hope (cf. Job 40:4-5)
 - 3) It reveals that no one can achieve righteousness by means of obedience to the law.
- The law reveals our need for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:21-24)
- When we put our faith in Jesus Christ to be our Savior from the penalty and consequences of our sin, we receive the righteousness that comes only from God.