

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 3

Lesson 4

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From last week's lesson or lecture share a reason all people need the Gospel.

2. Paul began the epistle of Romans with the bad news before he gave the good news. The bad news is that no man is righteous before God. All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Bad men, good men, and even religious men are all under condemnation. So what is the good news? God in His great love came up with a plan to save, justify, redeem, and provide the propitiation for all men through faith in Jesus Christ. Christ did all the work necessary to present men righteous before God. Now, all that is required to claim this divine righteousness is to believe in Jesus and His work on the cross.

In Romans 3, Paul concluded his case, proving the condemnation of all men (even the Jews) before God. He then segued into the great work of God through Christ Jesus. Capture the joy of this great work using phrases from each passage below to highlight God's glorious deliverance from condemnation:

- a. Romans 3:1-8

 - b. Romans 3:9-20

 - c. Romans 3:21-26

 - d. Romans 3:27-31
3. Take a moment to praise and thank the Lord for the blessing of His righteousness.

The righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

Romans 3:22

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 3:1–8

1. The fact that even the Jews, who had the law, were also condemned would have generated questions in the mind of the Romans. Paul anticipated those questions and answered them in Romans 3:1–8. Read these verses from the NLT. ¹*What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?* ²*Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.* ³*For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?* ⁴*Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged.”* ⁵*But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.)* ⁶*Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?* ⁷*For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner?* ⁸*And why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”? – as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.* Use the chart below to summarize Paul’s questions and answers:

Question	Answer
Verse 1	Verse 2
Verse 3	Verse 4
Verse 5	Verse 6
Verse 7	Verse 8b

2. Using what you studied today, what *advantage* did the Jews have? Romans 3:2
 - a. How do these advantages add to their guilt?
3. Share a way God’s faithfulness is *not* nullified by unbelief. Romans 3:3–4
 - a. How does Psalm 51:4 affirm man’s guilt before God?
4. How would you respond to someone who says, *Let us do evil that good may come*?
5. What do Paul’s questions convey to you about the human point of view?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 3:9–20

1. In light of the *advantage* of the Jew (Romans 3:1), Paul asked if Jews were *better* than Gentiles (Romans 3:9a). Record his conclusion in Romans 3:9b.
2. In Romans 1 Paul demonstrated the guilt of all mankind before a righteous God. He reaffirmed this in Romans 3:10–18 by quoting from the Psalms. Use these verses to note and remark on the following:
 - a. Man's natural state before God (verses 10–11)
 - b. Man's choices (verse 12)
 - c. Man's actions (verses 13–18)
 - (1) Why is Paul's argument powerful? See Hebrews 4:12.
3. To further drive home his point, Paul referred to the *law*, another source of pride for the Jew. Read Romans 3:19 (NLT), *Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.* Identify and comment on the *purpose* of the law.
4. Record Paul's conclusion in Romans 3:20a.
 - a. Why can't *the law* justify a person? Romans 3:20b
 - b. Link this truth with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:
 - (1) Galatians 2:16
 - (2) Galatians 3:10–13
 - (3) Galatians 3:24
5. Why are you thankful for the Gospel?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 3:21–26

1. Having established the guilt of all mankind before a righteous God, Paul announced the good news that God made a way to account as righteous (justify) mankind *apart from the law*. Remark on those who *witnessed this righteousness of God*. Romans 3:21

2. Use Romans 3:22 to describe the *righteousness* that God has provided.

- a. How does someone appropriate this *righteousness*?

3. According to Romans 3:23, why do *all* men need the righteousness that comes through Jesus alone?

- a. Link this with Philippians 3:9 and share your thoughts.

4. Even though *all have sinned*, Paul had good news! Use Romans 3:24 to fill in the blanks with this good news:

Being _____ by His _____ through the
_____ that is in _____.

- a. Share what it means to you to be:

- (1) *Justified freely* (accounted righteous)

- (2) Given God's *grace* (unearned, undeserved favor)

- (3) Given *redemption* through Jesus (bought back from the slavery of sin and the devil)

5. Answer the following questions after reading Romans 3:25–26 (NLT), *For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for He was looking ahead and including them in what He would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He declares sinners to be right in His sight when they believe in Jesus:*

- a. How did God show Himself *fair and just* through Jesus?

- b. What ministers to you concerning the propitiation (*sacrifice*) made by Jesus?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 3:27–31

1. Based on the fact that justification comes through faith in Jesus, Paul said in Romans 3:27 (NLT), *Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith.* Link this with Ephesians 2:8–9 and share your thoughts.
 - a. Why do these truths about the Gospel exclude *boasting*?
2. What did Paul *conclude*? Romans 3:28
 - a. Why is this important for you to understand?
3. In Romans 3:29 Paul made the point that God is not only the *God of the Jews*, but also the *God of the Gentiles*. How is this the case? Romans 3:30
 - a. Use the following Scriptures to affirm Paul's point:
 - (1) Galatians 3:26–28
 - (2) Ephesians 3:6
 - (3) Colossians 3:11
4. Some may have argued with Paul that he seemed to *make void the law* because of his emphasis on faith in Christ. Knowing this, Paul declared in Romans 3:31 (NLT), *Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.* Link this with Galatians 5:14 to share how faith in Christ enables us to *fulfill the law*.
5. From your study today, reflect and comment on the superiority of faith.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Share an insight you gained this week about each of the following:
 - a. The righteousness of God (Romans 3:1-8)
 - b. The unrighteousness of mankind (Romans 3:9-20)
 - c. Justification by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26)
 - d. The impartiality of God (Romans 3:27-31)
2. Using what you've studied this week, how would you share the Gospel with an unbeliever?

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
Romans 3:24