



ROMANS series study guide

Speaker: Pastor Henry Schorr

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Sermon Title: God's Great Gift

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. What is the most adventurous activity that you participated in? What did you have to put your faith in while doing this activity (e.g. piece of equipment, guide, etc.)?
2. We have been introduced to three different types of people thus far in the book of Romans: The rebellious person (chapter 1), the respectable person (chapter 2), and the religious person (chapters 2 & 3). In your life journey, which of these would you say you can identify with most?

PURSUE GOD: Time that is devoted to the Word of God

3. Read *Romans 3:9-20*. How is sin defined in today's society? From these verses in Romans, what definition would you give to sin?
4. Read *Romans 3:21-26*. This passage has several terms, all of which are part of "God's Great Gift" of salvation. What words/illustrations could we use to describe the following terms to someone unfamiliar with them?
 - a. The "righteousness of God" (vv. 21-22)
 - b. Justification (v. 24)
 - c. Redemption (v. 24)
 - d. Atonement (v. 25)
 - e. Faith (vv. 22, 25, 26)
 - f. Grace (v. 24)

PURSUE MISSION: Seek to be the community of God's people in your community

5. Martin Luther, John Wesley, Karl Barth – This passage changed their lives ... and world history. What is the greatest "breakthrough" in these verses (21-26) for you? How does this message of "God's Great Gift" impact your interactions with others?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

What part of this section of Scripture do you need to be reminded of? That we all have fallen short of the glory of God? That we are made right with God not by our own efforts? That Jesus' sacrifice makes us wholly righteous in God's sight? Pray that God would bring home the reality, assurance, and wonder of his salvation in your life.

This week's writers: Sandi Somers, Gene and Karen Gibbs, David McMillin, Edi Dygert and Jared Harrison

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 3:9-26

⁹ What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. ¹⁰ As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."

¹³ "Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit."

"The poison of vipers is on their lips."

¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and
bitterness."

¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know."

¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



ROMANS series study summary

God's Great Gift

Romans 3:9-26

Pastor Henry Schorr

In the first two chapters of Romans, Paul explains that we all have a sin problem - we are all inclined to live our lives independent of God. Sin is serious because, left to ourselves, we face God's wrath and judgment.

In Romans 3, Paul writes for people who downplayed or ignored sin and thought they could earn God's love by obeying the law. He emphasizes that no amount of good behavior or religious activity can hide sin.

In Romans 3:21-26, Paul brings in the Good News of the gospel. He explains how Jesus Christ accomplished salvation for us through His death and resurrection!

1. Salvation is initiated by God (v.21). The wrath of God and His righteousness seem contradictory. But God is right and perfect, and His rightness flows from compassion. He has made a way for everyone to be made right with Himself. He has come to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). Something "lost" signifies value. Drop a nickel, and we don't worry. Lose \$100 and we'll search for it. Lose a child and we won't rest or have peace until that child is found. That's the kind of love God has for us.
2. Salvation is unearned. No one makes it to heaven by observing the law, or the 10 Commandments (verse 20). Instead, the law makes us aware of our need, just as a mirror makes us aware of dirt on our face but does not clean us up (Galatians 3:24). We are saved by faith.
3. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ (v.22). Faith is not intellectual assent, but entrusting our entire life to what we believe in. Some people struggle with having enough faith. However, it's not the size of our faith that's important, it's the size of our God. Others think that trusting in their faith will save them. To illustrate, if you jump from the fifth floor of a burning building into a net, the net has saved you, not your jump. Likewise, the object of our faith is God, and Christ saves by His grace.
4. Salvation is available to all who believe in Him (Romans 10:13).
5. Salvation is undeserved (v.23). Paul uses courtroom language to explain how we are justified freely. We are declared not guilty and are acquitted, set free (Romans 6:23).
6. Salvation comes through Jesus' sacrifice, at a very costly price (verses 22-24). All the sins of the world through history were put on Jesus (Galatians 3:13, Isaiah 53:6). Little wonder Jesus agonized in the Garden. Not for the physical and emotional agonies of the cross, but for taking on the wrath of God against all our sins. His agonizing role was as the sacrificed Lamb who took away the sin of the world. By doing so, Jesus accomplished two things:
 - a. He redeemed us, meaning He paid the ransom. We can illustrate this principle to someone buying a slave and then setting him/her free. (John 8:36).
 - b. He died in our place, making atonement for us (3:25). We can compare Jesus' sacrifice to banking transactions. My sin was transferred from my account to God's. God's righteousness was transferred from His account to mine.

God's desire is to restore us to Himself and has made a way for everyone to be saved from our sin problem. If you've wandered away from God, if you're depending on your own righteousness, or if you've never had a change of heart, make a new start today by accepting God's salvation and surrendering your life completely to Him.