

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



4. Righteous through Christ

Introduction

In the first few chapters of the book of Romans we are shown that all men are sinners. The Apostle Paul begins by showing that the Gentiles are sinners and then goes on to show that Jews are too. Although God had given the Jewish people the law, they had failed to keep it. The stage is now set for Paul to explain how we can be made righteous through Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:9-31

- ⊗ What is the Apostle Paul's conclusion about the state of all men in Romans 3:9, 10, 23?

(He tells us that all men are under sin. No one is righteous and we have all fallen short of God's glory.)

- ⊗ If man has always failed to keep the law, what is the purpose of having the law then? Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:21-24

(The law makes us conscious that we are sinners and need the forgiveness of God. This helps lead us to Christ.)

- ⊗ Often people are told they are sinners but they do not really know what sin is! How could we use God's law to show people their need of Christ?

(By showing them God's law and explaining its' true meaning they will understand what sin is and how they have broken God's standards. They will realise they need a Saviour.)

- ⊗ The Bible clearly states that no one is righteous. How can we be made righteous according to Romans 3:22 and 24?

(We are only made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ and this is a gift given freely by God's grace.)

- ⊗ Many people think they are good and that there is no need for Jesus Christ in their life. What would you say to such a person? Discuss.

- ⊗ Paul continues by saying that there is no reason for anyone to boast. Why does he say this? Romans 3:27-30.

(None of us have kept God's law, so none of us can boast that we deserve God's grace! All men, Jew and Gentile alike, can only be justified by faith in Christ.)

- ⊗ Although the law does not justify us it says in verse 31 that we are to uphold the law. How can we do that? Also see Psalm 1:2.

(In Psalm 1:2 it says that we are to delight in the law. We do this by meditating on it, obeying and honouring it. Those of us who have children also need to teach them to obey God's law.)

Conclusion

We have learnt in this study that none of us are righteous before God, and we have all broken his law. In Romans 3:23 it says, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” However the next verse goes on to say that all can be “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” If you have already accepted God’s wonderful gift of salvation through Christ, then give thanks! If you have never done that, then why not accept that gift right now!

