

A Gift of Righteousness

October 16, 2016

Romans 3:9-31

1) Mankind is evil.

We are born into sin (Adam) and have also sinned ourselves.

No one seeks God (vs. 12)

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 64:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me".

John 14:6

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:44

We go our own way (vs. 12)

Romans 1:18-32

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Speech is ungodly (vs.13-14)

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:45

Killing of others (vs. 15)

Cain murders Abel in Genesis 4.

Just watch the news; the evil heart is evident all over and it can be just as evident in us as Believers at times.

They don't know God or want to know (vs. 17-18)

At our core (left to our own devices), we don't want to know God or walk with Him. It's who we are at our core.

"The truly righteous pray fervently and entreat God for divine grace, not only because they know that their will is evil, but also because they can never **fully comprehend the unspeakable depth of their depravity.**" ~ **Martin Luther.**

2) The Law makes us aware of our sin and evilness.

We must realize our sin is against a holy and righteous God.

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."^[a] ⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. ⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. ¹² Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

Romans 7:7-12

God is our “**measuring stick**” and none of us measure up to God or His standards. Because of this we can’t know Him, walk with Him or spend Eternity with Him.

Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line. Then the Lord said: “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore. The high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste. I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam.” **Amos 7:7-9**

We can’t be made right by the Law.

The Law reveals our sin, letting us know we have broken it and separated from God, but ...

3) Jesus made **THE** way, Himself (vs. 24-25)

I have been saved. – justification

Saved at the moment I trusted Jesus.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

I am being saved. – sanctification

Walk and know God, I am to follow Jesus.

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! **Romans 7:21-25a**

I am being saved mainly from **MYSELF**.

I will be saved. – glorification

One day I will spend Eternity with Christ in Glory, without sin.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. **1 John 3:2-3**

As Believers, we are almost always joyful about justification (being made right before God through Jesus), but are much less enthusiastic about sanctification (God speaking and working in us, even when it hurts). God desires both so that when glorification comes (perfect Eternity with Him) we will be ready.

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:3

“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:14-15

Prayer Focus:

- I would recognize I am a sinner set apart from God, and I would put my faith in Jesus.
- As a Believer, I would not only be thankful for God’s justification, but desire His sanctification.
- I would know Jesus more daily.