

Romans

WEEK 5 - JUNE 28TH, 2015

LEARN

ROMANS 3:9-22a (NIV)

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.

MAIN IDEA

This summer, we’re studying the first eight chapters of Romans in a series led by both of our teaching ministers, Jim Keller and Zach Van Dyke. In week five, Zach walked us through Romans 3:9-22. In these verses, Paul addresses the Christians in Rome and levels the playing field by saying that *none* of us are righteous, *none* of us understand God, and *none* of us do good. Left on our own, we are inadequate, but the hope of the gospel is that “righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (verse 22).

THINK...

1. Read the passage above. In verses 10-18, Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah from the Old Testament to show us that on our own, none of us can live up to the law—it shows us how much we fall short. Now read Ephesians 2:1-5. How did Christ coming to earth and dying on the cross change everything?
2. “The gospel places us at the foot of the cross, which is perfectly level.” We’ve been conditioned to compare ourselves to others, to place people into categories and determine where we rank in the world. Yet in today’s passage, Paul is saying that according to God, no one is better than anyone else. Who is Paul addressing in these verses, and why do you think he made a point of “leveling the playing field”?
3. Write the following verse somewhere as a reminder for yourself this week, and try to commit it to memory: “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” —1 Samuel 16:7

DISCUSS...

1. Discuss the story of Hosea (Hosea 1:1-11 and 3:1-5). How does this story reflect the gospel message and the truth of God’s redeeming love?
2. When Hosea confronted Gomer about her unfaithfulness, she immediately blamed him, saying he hadn’t cared for her well. When our sin is addressed, we often react by making excuses, blaming someone else, or bargaining with God. Which of these ring true for you?
3. Zach said, “The key to transformation lies not in our faithfulness to Christ, but in His faithfulness to us.” How does this truth give you hope, knowing that on our own we can never be “declared righteous”? (Read verses 20-22 above.)

NEXT STEPS

The power of the gospel lies not in our faithfulness to God, but rather His faithfulness to us. The first step toward life change and transformation is recognizing God’s faithfulness in your life. Start a list this week of ways God has been faithful to you, even in times when

you might have been unfaithful to Him. Spend time in prayer, thanking Him for the ways His faithfulness has changed you.

If you're new to Summit or just now joining us in our Romans series... This summer, we're embarking on a church-wide study of Romans. We would love for the Summit community to walk through this life-changing book together over the coming months. You can jump in at any point, and how you choose to do this is completely up to you. For recommended studies and ways you can participate, visit summitconnect.org or your campus Resource Center.

*O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!*

*Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:*

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;*

*Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.*

(Robert Robinson, 1757)