

Connection to Romans 3

In Romans 1 and 2, Paul identified the need for a Savior. Having proven that need, he then began to outline how we can be made right with God.

Introduction/Opening

Find the good in you and make it grow. God helps those who help themselves. These are messages that are the opposite of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, the gospel begins with an understanding that we are a mess and cannot “fix” ourselves, there is no amount of good in us that can help. We are in no position to bargain with God. (I’ll do this, and you do that.) We are spiritually dead; we need nothing less than a resurrection. We need some good news! We need certainties of how we can be made right with God.

Having established the need for a Savior, Paul then began to present the certainties of the gospel. In our passage for today, Paul outlined no less than four certainties about the gospel.

Outline

1. The Gospel Declares God’s Righteousness (vv. 21-23).
The Lord’ holiness calls for perfection. God’s character is the moral standard, and all people have fallen short of His glory. True righteousness cannot be obtained through obedience to the law, and it does not come from somewhere within us. True righteousness comes solely through faith in Jesus Christ.
2. The Gospel Displays the Gift of God’s Grace (v. 24).
Believers are justified or declared just as a gift by God’s grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. So, though we stand guilty and unrighteous before God, we are declared righteous by the means of a transfer of righteousness to our account from Jesus Christ’s account.
3. The Gospel Defines God’s Love (vv. 25-26).
The wrath of God called for the penalty of sin to be paid. The atoning death of Jesus Christ satisfied the wrath of God which demanded justice for humanity’s sin and demonstrated God’s righteousness because God passed over sins previously committed.
4. The Gospel Directs One to Faith (vv. 27-31).
Justification is by faith alone and does not depend on doing any works of the law. Boasting is excluded, since salvation is solely accomplished through the atoning death of Jesus.

Conclusion

Paul sums up how we fall short of God's righteousness and how salvation is a transfer of righteousness from Jesus to the believer's account. He shares with us that salvation is also a gift of grace derived from the goodness of God and has nothing to do with how good we think we are. Salvation is a display of God's love for us. Salvation is for us, not about us; the central focus of salvation is God.

Travis Smalley is a native of the Cincinnati area with over twenty-six years of pastoral experience. He has been the lead pastor at Lakota Hills Baptist Church since 2006. He earned his bachelor's degree from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and his master's degree from Liberty University. He also serves as the Send City Missionary in Cincinnati with the NAMB. He and his wife Robin have been married over twenty-six years and have two adult children.