

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #5: The Righteousness from God

INTRODUCTION

Reflect on your own conversion to Christ. In what sense did the gospel seem like a pardon from death row?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 3:21-31

1. How would you describe the tone of this passage?
2. Why wasn't the Old Testament Law a means of salvation? **Rom 4:6; Jn 5:39**
3. How is the righteousness from God different from righteousness by law? **Lk 2:30-32; Heb 4:15; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:24; Heb 9:28; Ps 119:142; Phil 3:4-6; Isa 64:6; Rom 4:15**
4. Why does Christ's death (blood) turn away God's wrath from us? **1 Pet 1:18-19**
5. Who is so evil that they cannot be "saved"? **1 Tim 1:15; Rom 5:8-9**
6. What is the glory that God had (has) planned for man? (v.23) **Heb 2:5-9**
7. How do the justice and grace of God meet at the cross? vv. 25-26
8. How might boasting about ourselves betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the gospel?
9. How has your relationship with Christ made you act differently than "BC" (before Christ)?

APPLICATION

Take time to praise and thank God for Jesus Christ and his sacrifice on the cross.

Throughout history men have asked much the same questions as Job. (Job 9:2) The very reason that religion is so universally common to mankind reflects man's attempts to answer such questions. As noted in the last chapter, people cannot escape feelings of guilt, not only for doing things they know are wrong but for being the way they are. Man's sense of lostness, loneliness, emptiness, and meaninglessness is reflected in the literature and archaeological remains of every civilization. So is his fear of death, of existence, if any, beyond the grave, and of divine punishment. Nearly every religion is a response to those fears and seeks to offer a way of reaching and satisfying deity. But every religion except Christianity is man-made and works-centered, and for that reason, none of them can succeed in leading a person to God.

Scripture makes clear that there is indeed a way to God, but that it is not based on anything men themselves can do to achieve or merit it. Man can be made right with God, but not on his own terms or in his own power. In that basic regard, Christianity is distinct from every other religion. As far as the way of salvation is concerned, there are therefore only two religions the world has ever known or will ever know-the religion of divine accomplishment, which is biblical Christianity, and the religion of human achievement, which includes all other kinds of religion, by whatever names they may go under. ¹ Whether the law of God is the Mosaic law of the Jews or the law written in the hearts and consciences of all men, including Gentiles, obedience to it can never be perfect and therefore can never save. That is a devastating truth to everyone who seeks to please God on his own terms and in his own power-which is why the gospel is so offensive to the natural man. ²

¹ ² MacArthur, John: *Romans*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1996, c1991, c1994, S. 198; 203

