

Romans: Paul's Symphony

God's Faithfulness, Our Unrighteousness: Romans 3:1-20

October 25, 2020

Among your relatives, who comes closest to being the spiritual "patriarch"?

Have two people read v.1-8 odd and even verses. What are the issues in each question? How does Paul address them?

When Paul quotes Psalm 51 in v.5, he brings to mind other themes from that psalm. When during the year do we read this psalm? What does it say to God?

Do you think it is easier for a prodigal who has "hit bottom" to come to repentance and faith than someone who has had good religious training? How can coming to church and Bible study serve to "inoculate" someone to Christianity? (inoculate = get just enough of something so that you don't get the real thing)

What did God entrust to the Israelites? How did they do with that commission?

How does that affect God's faithfulness?

What do you think of when you hear the word "faith"? How does that word get used in our society? How are "faith" and "faithfulness" connected? How about "trust" and "trustworthiness"?

The Jews saw God's Law as something that distinguished them from other people. What are the things that we like to boast about as Christians and Lutherans that set us apart from others? How can those things give us false confidence in ourselves?

What Scripture passages does Paul draw upon to strengthen his argument? Look at the verses around each of the quotations. What else does Paul seem to be saying?

What is the purpose of our society's laws? Why can no one be set right with God through the Law? What does God's Law do?

Next week: **Righteousness through Faith**—read *Romans 3:21-31*