

2nd October 2016—Home Group Study Notes

Read Romans 3:1-31

This whole chapter is about the righteousness (the covenant faithfulness) of God. In the first half of this chapter (v.1-20) this righteousness is revealed through God's wrath; in the second half through his grace in salvation (v.21-31). In the past the faithlessness of Israel highlighted human sinfulness, but now (i.e. in the present) the faithfulness of Jesus brings God's salvation.

1. Looking at v.1- 8 what are some of the objections Paul is 'heading off' and what are some of the ways we tend to dodge admitting our unrighteousness before God?
2. In v.9–18 Paul quotes a whole array of passages from the Hebrew Scriptures. What is Paul trying to achieve by this?
3. v.19-20 seems to suggest that if Israel (as God's people) is silenced by their being 'without excuse' then, surely, the whole world (by extension) is accountable and guilty. In what ways is Israel's failure mirrored by the wider world?
4. v.21 and following mark a dramatic change. What does Paul say about the righteousness of God here? What are the key words in v.21-22?
5. In the verses that follow (v.24-26) Paul uses different images to talk about what God has done in putting us right with him through the faithfulness of Christ. He uses the story of Exodus (**redemption** from slavery); an image from the Tabernacle (**atonement**) and an image from the law courts (declared righteous –**justified**). How does each image contribute to our understanding of God's salvation? What amazes you most?
6. Throughout his chapter what does Paul say to emphasise that Jew and Gentile are one?
7. Personal faith is crucial in order to receive the gift of all that Christ has achieved (v.22 – '**to all who believe**'). How can we help people who have heard the Gospel but never responded to make that decisive step of faith?
8. What are some of the pastoral consequences (v.27-31) of being justified by faith in Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Thank God for the wonder of the Gospel and pray for many to discover it's freeing and transforming power.

