

February 15 – “The Human Problem & God’s Righteousness”

Romans 1:1–3:20

Sermon Discussion Guide

Icebreaker:

Have you ever read or heard something that changed the way you saw yourself or God (a verse, a book, a conversation)?

- What made it impactful?
- Why do you think certain truths don’t just inform us, but confront us?

Discussion Questions

1. The Power of the Gospel

Paul says the gospel is “*the power of God for salvation*” (Romans 1:16–17).

- Why do you think Paul starts with the power of the gospel before addressing sin?
- How does remembering the *power* of the gospel change the way we talk about hard topics like sin and righteousness?

2. The Human Problem

Romans 1 describes humanity exchanging the truth about God for a lie.

- What are some modern “exchanges” we’re tempted to make today (good things that can become ultimate things)?
- How can even religious or moral behavior drift into self-reliance instead of dependence on God?

3. Judgment, Pride, and the Heart

In Romans 2, Paul confronts judgmentalism and spiritual pride.

- Why is it often easier to see sin in others than in ourselves?
- How does pride—either superiority or self-condemnation—get in the way of repentance and transformation?

4. All on Level Ground

Paul concludes that “*there is no one righteous... for all have sinned*” (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Why is it important that Paul levels the ground for both Jews and Gentiles?
- How does understanding that we are all equally in need of grace shape authentic community and humility?

Takeaway:

Romans reminds us that the gospel doesn’t begin with how good or bad we are—it begins with how gracious God is. We all share the same human problem, and we all need the same righteousness that comes by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

This week, reflect on this question:

Where am I tempted to rely on my own goodness, knowledge, or activity instead of God’s grace?

Let the gospel confront you—not condemn you, but to transform you.