

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Romans // God's Righteous Judgment
Pastor Marcus
June 12, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is a movie you think everyone should watch?

Reading: Romans 3:21-31

Outline:

- I. Righteousness through Faith (Romans 1:21-26)
 - A. Paul says that righteousness through faith has come apart from the law of Moses, although the Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) bear witness to it.
 - B. We are pronounced as slaves to sin, but our faith gives us righteousness from God that saves us and calls us to do better than our former sinful selves, not simply affirmation for our sinful behaviors.
Q: What areas of your life do you find yourself seeking affirmation?
- II. Righteousness for Everyone (Romans 1:27-30)
 - A. The righteousness we receive through faith excludes arrogance and pride because it is a gift. If we received this righteousness through the law there would be room for boasting in our works, but faith does not provide this room.
 - B. When we make the entry point to the church something other than the Gospel and righteousness through faith, we're demanding a different kind of righteousness than what God has already gifted to us.
Q: When have you seen the entry point of the church be a different kind of righteousness?
- III. Righteousness that Upholds the Law (Romans 1:31)
 - A. The righteousness of faith upholds the law because it recognizes what the law actually demands of us and what the law was actually meant for – to show us our failings and to instead point us to the righteousness Jesus gives.
 - B. The righteousness we are given through faith that clings to Jesus demands no performance. You ARE righteous. Because you don't have to work to become righteous before God, you are set free to be transformed by God.
Q: What areas of your life do you seek transformation, or have seen transformation, by God?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What is a way in which you demand a different righteousness for yourself?
- 2) In what ways do you see your faith upholding the law?
- 3) What sorts of sin do you feel you are most enslaved to? How do you remind yourself that Jesus has set you free?
- 4) When do you find yourself boasting in your works, and how do you avoid boasting?

Suggestions for further study:

- Hebrew 10: 1-14 Q: How does Jesus' sacrifice and gift of righteousness shed a new light on the animal sacrifices offered in the Old Testament?
- Galatians 3:8 Q: How does the Scripture "foreseeing" itself strengthen or change the way you view your faith?

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank you for making us righteous through your Son. Thank you for showing us that we will never be enough to attain salvation ourselves, so you therefore free us from the never-ending work of trying to save ourselves. Help remind us that we are given freedom in our faith and we are therefore already enough for you. Amen.