

ROMANS 3:10-23 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

Righteousness is defined as the quality of being morally right and without sin. Only God is perfectly righteous. From Rom 1:16-17 discuss how the righteousness of God is revealed through the Gospel? What is meant by the phrase, "The righteous shall live by faith?"



Read Rom 1:18-23 and identify 3-4 manifestations of unrighteousness in the lives of the irreligious (specifically the Gentiles in this passage). Some people struggle with the judgment of God on sinners. Do you think that God is just in punishing the wicked? Give some of your reasons.



- *Did you notice how that the irreligious of Rom 1:18-23 were aware of a holy standard? What are some ways in which even those who deny God demonstrate an awareness of moral absolutes?*
- *How can the religious person be just as unrighteous as the irreligious? Read Rom 2:1-2.*

Paul wants us to understand the reality of our depravity. Our sinfulness is so great that pretending that it is not there or trying to cover it with our own self-righteousness will not remove the coming judgment of God. Examine Rom 3:10-18 and find the portion of the text that communicates the effects of sin in our lives.



- *Our legal standing - vs. 10: _____*
- *Our wills - vs. 12: _____*
- *Our minds - vs. 11: _____*
- *Our tongues - vs. 13: _____*
- *Our motives - vs. 11b: _____*
- *Our relationships - vs. 15-17: _____*
- *Our relationship with God - vs. 18: _____*

This might be review for those that heard our preaching series on the 10 Commandments, but read Rom 3:19-20 and share what the law accomplishes. Explain what it cannot do and what it does very well.



Technically the terms "righteous" and "justify" come from the same word. Discuss the differences and the connections between these two words. To help with that, righteousness is defined as the quality of being morally right and without sin. Justification would be defined as the act of God's grace in declaring sinners fully acquitted and counting them as righteous before him on the basis of the finished work of Christ, received through faith alone.



Rom 3:24 tells us that we "are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." What are some ways that we can try to justify ourselves before God? What are some of our motives for self-justification? What are some ways that Christians forget that God's grace is a gift?

Read this George Whitefield quote out-loud. *"Our best duties are as so many splendid sins ... you must not only be made sick of your ... sin, but you must be sick of your righteousness, of all your duties and performances. There must be a deep conviction before you can be brought out of your self-righteousness; it is the last idol taken out of your heart."* Share with at least one person how you are self righteous.

