**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*Roman Series*

*Romans 3*

 *God’s Righteousness in Us*

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July 28th In the Year of Our Lord 2019

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS quoted)

 Romans is considered to be Paul’s greatest Theological

Statement. This is true, but Romans does not stand alone. Romans depends upon the rest of the Bible to substantiate its teachings. The Law and the Prophets are mentioned in 3:21. This opens the whole Bible to references in Romans, that is, particularly the Old Testament. Paul is declaring that his teaching stands on the Law and the Prophets. Starting with Genesis 3:15, there was a confrontation planned for God to crush the head of the serpent, Satan.

 Throughout history, people have made claims for themselves that their own righteousness makes them acceptable to God, that their own merit, originating in them, made them a better person. To some degree, this is true comparing man to man but not man to God. However, people cannot stand on their own righteousness for a lifetime. We are too flawed. We will make a mistake. We will speed 56-mph in a 55-mph speed zone one day. In a lifetime, we will break more rules and laws than the speed limits. There is the problem for people. This is why any religious system calling for people to justify themselves based upon their own life’s account will never justify them to God.

 We talked last week that the atheists have averted this problem by telling themselves that there isn’t any God and, therefore, no need to worry about speeding 56 in a 55. They also claim that they can live moral lives. I can understand that these atheists can live their lives not robbing banks and dealing in drugs. However, the problem with their own righteousness is that it is weighed upon their own scales of justice. There isn’t any code outside of themselves to hold them accountable. We live in a country of law, but laws passed in many parts of the country do not recognize a higher authority other than themselves. This is why we have legal partial-birth abortion in America. Too many politicians only relied upon their own judgement and righteousness. These are not moral laws. This list of laws passed by those who do not consider God and His ways are too numerous to list. Everything from unaccountable welfare to granting teens to make decisions without parental knowledge. The fact is that a person who does not consider God and His ways is not a moral person. Eventually, they will make a decision to disrespect their neighbor because they do not respect God, who in their minds does not exist.

 In fact, the political socialist, communist, fascist and dictatorship movements in history are all based upon the premise of atheism. All of these systems use people as a means to gain a political objective. A Biblical worldview from God is that people are not the means to be used to gain a political goal. People created in God’s image are to be viewed as the goal to develop to their fullest in a life designed by God.

 I have heard a story told by Ravi Zacharias several times over the years. These are recorded in YouTube videos for all the world to see. Ravi retells the account of the U.S.S.R. leader Joseph Stalin who responds to a question that his policies hurt people, and many have died in Russia due to his decisions. Stalin calls for a servant to bring him a chicken. Stalin then proceeds to hold the chicken forcefully and pulls all the feathers off the chicken. Stalin then puts the chicken on the ground and sprinkles seeds at his feet. The chicken starts to eat the seed on the ground by Stalin’s feet. Stalin looks at his questioner and says, “This is why the people stand by me”.

Regardless how high we hold our own righteousness it is never good enough to approve us to God. In addition, others cannot stand under another person’s righteousness. This was Job’s sin. His children stood under Job’s righteousness and died. Job did not see himself accurately under God’s righteousness. Job, was not innocent. I have written much on the book of Job. So, I do not write this without careful examination of the Scripture. If someone wants to come visit with me on Job, I look forward to their visit.

**Job 27:1-6** (CSB17)

 1 Job continued his discourse, saying:

 2 As God lives, who has deprived me of justice, and the Almighty who has made me bitter,

 3 as long as my breath is still in me and the breath from God remains in my nostrils,

 4 my lips will not speak unjustly, and my tongue will not utter deceit.

 5 I will never affirm that you are right. I will maintain my integrity until I die.

 6 I will cling to my righteousness and never let it go. My conscience will not accuse me as long as I live!

Here are additional references concerning righteousness.

**Isaiah 64:6 YLT** And we are as unclean -- all of us, And as a garment passing away, all our righteous acts; And we fade as a leaf -- all of us. And our iniquities as wind do take us away.

**Isaiah 64:6 KJV** But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

**Isaiah 64:6** For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

**Romans 10:1-10**

 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

 3 For not knowing about God's

righteousness (35 times in Romans) and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. (Righteous 6 times in Romans)

[295 verses and 308 uses in Bible- righteousness]

[282 verses and 300 uses in Bible – righteous]

**Old Testament Hebrew**

Strong’s 06662 צַדִּיק tsaddiq 843a; Meaning: just, righteous

Origin: from the same as 6664; Usage: blameless(1), innocent(1), just(5), man that the righteous(1), one in the right(1), right(2), righteous(164), righteous man(19), righteous men(2), Righteous One(2), righteous one(2), righteous ones(3), righteously(1), who are in the right(1).

Notes: complete, perfect; or having integrity

Psalm 37:39; 2Pe 2:5; Genesis 17:1; Deuteronomy 18:13; Job 1:1; Genesis 5:24

**New Testament Greek**

Strong’s 1343 δικαιοσύνη dikaiosune; Meaning: righteousness, justice

Origin: from 1342; Usage: right(1), righteousness(90).

Notes: Romans 3:21, 9:30; Philippians 3:9 Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38

**Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

 5 since Moses writes about the righteousness that is from the law: The one who does these things will live by them.

6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down),

 7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART "-- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

 **Romans 3:21** But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

**Isaiah 46:13** "I bring near My righteousness; it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, *And* My glory for Israel.

**Isaiah 61:1-4**

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;

 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

 3 To grant those who mourn *in* Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. **So they will be called oaks of righteousness**, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

 4 Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, They will raise up the former devastations; And they will repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

**Romans 11:26-27**

26 and **so all Israel will be saved;** just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."

 27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

**Isaiah 59:20 (CSB17)**

“The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from transgression." This is the Lord's declaration.

**Zechariah 12:10**

 10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

**Psalm 14:7** Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**Isaiah 45:17** Israel will be saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated for all eternity.

**Romans 3:19-24**

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

 20 **because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight;** for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

 21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the **Law** and the **Prophets**,

Jerimiah 31:31; Isaiah 9:6,7 & 53:1-12; Ezekiel; 36:25-27; Hebrews 8:6-13

 **22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;**

 **23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

 24 being **justified as a gift by His grace**

**through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;**

**Genesis 15:6** Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**Romans 9:31** But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not achieved the righteousness of the law.

**Romans 10:4** (CSB17) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes,

**Galatians 2:21** (CSB17) I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

**Galatians 3:21-29**

21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

 23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

**Philippians 3:9** (CSB17) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness from God based on faith.

**Romans 9:27-33** (NAU)

27 Isaiah (10:22) cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;

 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."

 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH."

 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;

 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law.

 32 Why? Because *they did* not *pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

 33 just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."