

Romans 3: 9-31

Introduction.

- A. Written by Paul from Corinth winter of 56/57.
 - 1. To let the Romans know he planned to visit them.
 - 2. To explain the gospel he preached.
- B. Introduces himself and his theme: the just will live by faith.
- C. Shows the sinfulness of all humanity.
 - 1. The wicked man (1:18-32).
 - 2. The moral man (2: 1-16).
 - 3. The Jew (2:17-3:8).

I. The conclusion of his previous arguments (3:9-20).

- A. All have sinned and stand condemned.
- B. Even the Law does not save; it brings the knowledge of sin.
- C. When all hope is gone, “but....”

II. The way of righteousness 21-26).

- A. Testified to by the Law and the Prophets.
 - 1. OT is not opposed to faith.
 - a. A broken and contrite heart (Ps. 51).
 - b. The brass serpent (Nu. 21).
 - 2. Salvation has always been by faith.
 - 3. The summaries of the law all lead to Ha. 2:4.
 - a. 613 commandments.
 - b. 10 commandments.
 - c. 3 commandments.
 - d. 1 commandment.

B. Comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. To all who believe.

- a. It is available to all.
- b. Not all will believe.

(C.S. Lewis: doctrine of hell is logical, even if not desirable.)

2. No one is preferred above the other.

- a. All have sinned (missed the mark).
- b. All may be freely justified.

3. Christ the propitiation.

- a. The Greek root word always associated with mercy.
 - i. The turning away of God's wrath.
 - ii. The washing away of sin.
- b. Becomes effective for the one who believes.
 - i. Shows the justice of God – punishment.
 - ii. Shows the mercy of God – justification.

III. Words of conclusion and anticipation (27-31).

A. Self-congratulation is excluded.

- 1. Boasting comes of one's own accomplishments (DO).
- 2. What is of faith comes from the accomplishments of another (DONE).
- 3. Salvation comes the same way for the Jew and the Gentile.

B. The Law is not made irrelevant.

1. It reveals our sin and points us to Christ.
2. Three aspects of Mosaic Law.
 - a. Civil – for the governing of Israel in the Land.
 - b. Ceremonial – the formalities of religious life for the Jew.
 - c. Moral – the righteous demands of God.
3. The moral law, though not a means of salvation, points us to Christ and should guide our behavior.