

ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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March 3 & 6, 2022
Week 8 – Righteousness, A Five-Letter Word

Review:

Romans 3:19-20

God's Intentions for His Law:

1. To hold humanity _____ for sin (3:19)
2. To make us _____ of our need for Jesus (3:20)
See Galatians 3:23-25, 2 Corinthians 3:3-11
Romans 3:21-26

A Glossary of the Good News:

_____ = to be "right with God, just or good"

_____ = to be "declared righteous" by God

_____ = confidence or trust/belief in something on a personal level

_____ = satisfaction of God's law by meeting its demands

_____ = to buy back or "purchase out of" the slave market of sin

Romans 3:27-31

The Big Idea: Only those who make much of God's grace truly understand the weight of God's Law. God's Law demands perfection and only Jesus meets that standard, offering His perfection to us as a free gift before God! Rejoice in your status before God today and every day!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Share a highlight or two from the weekend message that spoke to you, re-affirmed something to you, or challenged you in a new way...

Ponderings:

2. In the message, we saw the Apostle Paul lay out an overview of several of the amazing things God has offered to humanity through the gospel. Which of the five things highlighted do you most misunderstand or struggle with?
 - Righteousness – God has made you truly “good” in His sight
 - Justification – As judge of the universe, God has declared that you are innocent
 - Faith – God's salvation and life are available as a free gift to be received only through trusting in Jesus
 - Propitiation – Jesus fully satisfied the righteous demands of God's Law on your behalf
 - Redemption – Jesus' blood was the “currency” which purchased you out of the slave market of sin, never to be sold back again
3. Read the parallel passages as a group and discuss the following thoughts and questions:
 - Galatians 3:23-25
 - In what sense does Paul mean that we were “held prisoners” by the law until faith came?
 - According to verse 24, what was God's purpose for the law?
 - What does it mean that we are “no longer under the supervision of the law?”
 - 2 Corinthians 3:3-11
 - Verse 6 says specifically that the *new covenant* is “*not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*” In light of what we just read in Galatians 3:23-25, what does this mean?
 - The law is a ministry that brings “death” and “condemnation” (vs. 7, 9). If this is true, why are so many Christians bent on mixing the Old Covenant into their Christian lives?
 - Verses 9-11 affirm that the Old Covenant indeed had glory – but not near the glory of the new. How does this affirmation strengthen your faith in living by the Spirit rather than under law and legalism?
4. At the conclusion of the message, it was mentioned how ONLY those who highly esteem grace truly respect the weight of God's law. Explain this reality in your own words...

Promptings:

5. As we move toward new season of Spring, are you willing to trust God for the power and promises of His New Covenant to be magnified in your life, as opposed to living in legalism? Will you trust Him to produce fruit through you as you abide in Him restfully and securely? Will you ask Him how He may want to bless others through you sacrificially?