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| 1Romans 3.9-26 Sermon Outline11/03/24“How Can I Be Made Right Before God?”**INTRO:** Homer’s poem = Iliad = end 10 yr Trojan War Troy besieged Mycenean Greeks = AchillesBook 6 Hector = Trojan prince = prepares to fight Ajax Scaean Gates = wife Andromache and infant son = Astyanax w/nurse = armor = terrified But takes helmet off = son recognizes father Father embraces him = kisses him = offers prayer to gods blessing Up to this point in Romans God has been presented like Hector in his scary intimidating armor = waging war against sin and His enemies | 2Rom 1 = openly rebellious/immoral = guilty Rom 2 = morally good = guilty Rom 2 (later half) = religious also = guilty Point: All guilty whether Jew or Gentile God = judge, jury, executioner But God also = “redeemer” God = justice must punish sin But most surprising dare I say scandalous aspect of the gospel = God Himself became our sacrifice because we could never pay that penalty In Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second person of the Holy + Glorious Trinity = embrace us like Hector did to Astyanax = show us greatest demonstration of His love towards mankind: 2000 years ago = Golgotha = Roman execution site = “the skull”  |
| 3Only remaining group might suspect sees themselves better than everyone else = Paul and his companions themselvesBut no, Paul and company no better!V. 9 “*What then? Are we better? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, there is none righteous, not even one*!”Paul = “look guys, I am not writing about God’s condemnation of all because I am the exception. No, no, no everyone is guilty before God and under sin!”“Under” = powerful word = enslavement John 8 “all who sin a slave to sin” Meek + mild Jesus said this to the Pharisees/human condition Jn 8:44 “*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.* | 4*Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies*.” He was describing us!A lot of this = redundant = But shows how much we are not willing to acknowledge we are sinners in need of God’s grace!“But wait, Paul, not even one?!”Not even one = oude eis = you know what it means = very sophisticated = “not even one” Ok, I admit Paul there is no one righteous, we’ve all made mistakes, slip ups = maybe we will use your term = we’ve all….s…ss…..ssssinn….sssinnnedd But surely people are sincere and try to please God right? V. 11 |
| 5*There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; there is none who does good, there is not even one* (there it is again, not even one)!It's not only we failed to live up to standard = we don’t even seek Him!**ILLUST:** Famous Gospel chasm illustration = not quite accurate = Eph. 2 dead!We have become “worthless”! That’s how God views our sin = worthless! Nothing about us = attractive **ILLUST:** Bin of rotten apples = Ron’s apple farm They’ve been tested, found to be corrupt | 6So Paul not only are men not righteous, but they are not basically good either? = Yes!Try living in:1930s communist Russia Stalin killed at least 6 million of own people Living in place where there’s no police to defend the innocent Anarchy = murders happen right in front of your house and women are raped Don’t get me wrong = I am thankful that we are living in a country where it’s not anarchy and there is order and justice for the most part Sometimes when we live in polite society most are friendly we can forget = true condition of man Paul reminds us of the evil that is inside each one of us Not just describing = those people out there = but describing us as a whole  |
| 7V. 13 “*Their throat is an open tomb, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips*.”**ILLUST:** When we think of an open tomb = nice embalmed open casket = doesn’t stink Back then open tomb = stench of death horribleDead rat in kitchen pantry Grace Human body will smell worse Matt. 12 “*out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks*.”Matt. 15 “*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false witness, slanders*.” | 8Whenever we speak = mouth = so filthy = death We have deceptive tongues, manipulate, lie, slander James 3:6 “*And the tongue is a fire, the very world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our existence, and is set on fire by hell*.”Furthermore Paul = “poison of asps is under our lips” Snake = hiding its venom and fangs **ILLUST:** “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!” = false Pain of injuries eventually forget but words = lifetime |
| 9Just like rotten speech reeks of death comes out of the abundance of the heart, So we act out what is in our heart V. 15 “*Their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known*.”We bless but quick to murder same person Life of sin destroys others and destroys itself Like = people who go on killing sprees and then kills himself = makes absolutely no sense But also it does when we understand that God didn’t create us with capacity to bear all the burden of our sinsIsa. 57:20 *But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud*. | 10Prov. 8:36 “*But he who sins against me does violence to his own soul; All those who hate me love death*.”Ultimately = no fear of God V. 18 “*There is no fear of God before their eyes*.”Lack of this fear = presuming that God won’t punish you for sinMocking attitude = tests God = “God if you are displeased with my sin, why don’t you strike me dead right now?!” King Herod in Acts 12 = lacked fear of God “*The voice of a god and not of a man!”****23****And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.”* |
| 11Or like comedian Heather McDonald who collapsed on stage right after she said that Jesus must love me the most after getting all these vaccine shotsWhile we can’t definitely say for certain that her collapse on stage was a direct response from God to her mockery of Him, you can’t help but wonder if it was Paul knows the human condition well = we always automatically go to justify our goodness We are willing to admit that we are not perfect, but not that we are not righteous. that there are things not known to us, but not that we are devoid of all spiritual understanding. that we wander off the true path at times, but not that we are not even on the right path. Instead of admitting that we are running away from God, we pretend that we are seeking him.  | 12VV. 20-21 “*Now we know that whatever the Law says, it says to those who are in the Law, so that every mouth may be shut and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin*.”What is purpose of Mosaic Law? = Make you silent before God **ILLUST:** Donald Grey Barnhouse = crossing Atlantic by ship Preached then Professor of languagesTurned to Rom. 3:19 “*every mouth may be shut and all the world may become accountable to God*.”3:20 “*Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin*.” |
| 13**ILLUST:** Other words God’s Law = acts as mirrorWhat Paul saying = impossible to achieve righteousness by following the Law = every time measure yourself up = fall short **ILLUST:** It’s like quicksand = More you try to struggle and strive to get out, the deeper you sink in Perfection Matt. 5:48 “*Be perfect therefore as your heavenly father is perfect*.”Not mature! Perfection! V. 21 “*But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets*, *even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe*;” | 14What is Paul saying? There is a righteousness that comes from God = does NOT come from obeying the Law = witnessed by Law and Prophets It comes from Jesus Himself and His perfect life of obedience! Jesus: Matt. 3 He has come to fulfill all righteousnessLuke 24:25 “*O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures*.”If you were a Jew in OT = you would have received plenty of revelation = Messiah who would deal with sins once for all  |
| 15Even from beginning of creation Gen = God killed first animal as foreshadow = covering Adam and Eve = horrified = witness death on their behalf But God’s righteousness is fully manifested at the cross! If you believe in Him by faith you can receive this gift! “Wait Paul even if I have done nothing but sinned it up in this life” Even if I am on death row?I don’t care who you are it doesn’t make a difference to God how much good or how much bad you have done Because Paul says V. 22 “*For there is no distinction;* *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*.”Sinned = archer who misses the mark  | 16We fall short of God’s glory! Made to be like him and represent Him = fill the earth with God’s glory = but what do we do? Glorify ourselves, glorify creation rather than Creator = who is blessed forever amen But despite how far we have fallen the hope is this All those who put their trust in Jesus Christ will be V. 24 “*justified by the gift of His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*; *whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness*…”Some big words = rich words Not only that Christ saves you, He saves you by being the ransom price for our sins Market place of sin! |
| 17Not ransom price to Satan but to God Himself Propitiation = satisfied God’s wrath Goes back to Israel’s sacrifice for sin = animal’s death and blood = representing the horror of what sin does and that the life of the sinner should be sacrificed But alas animals can never take away sins Heb. 10:11 “*And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,**waiting from that time until His enemies are put as a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified*.”This gift that Christ gives you = not only “not guilty” but also “righteous”! | 18Why did Jesus need to absorb God’s wrath against in in Himself? Because V. 25 “*in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*.”Because God is a just God He didn’t punish every sin immediately because He was designating that time of punishment at the cross = giving men a chance to repent 2 Peter 3:9 “*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some consider slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*” |
| 19See if He forgave you without punishing your sins on the cross, He would be unjust It would be like the judge forgiving you of your crimes and letting you go without paying restitution to all the people you hurt and all the damage you did when you drove while drunk And God wouldn’t be able to justify you and forgive you without first punishing your sins on the cross! So how can you be made right before God? By acknowledging that there is no one who does good, not even one, which includes yourself That you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God To see that salvation does not have anything to do with how much good you have done But rather that you are in need of His Christ’s redemption for you on the cross  | 20How do I receive that redemption? Repent!Acts 17:30 “*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He determined, having furnished proof to all by raising Him from the dead*.”The call of the gospel is not an invitation = it is a command from your Creator who blessed you with life and lavished His goodness on you It’s not an interesting theological point of discussion,Not just a different view or a different interpretation of the Bible It is the only hope of salvation, the only source of true righteousness that can save you from God Himself  |
| 21Acts 4:12 “*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved*.”Salvation is not in yourself, it is not in religion, it is not in your good works, it is not in your parent’s faith, it is in the name of Jesus Christ!But God has removed His helmet in the cross so that you would recognize How much He loves you and that He is tolerating your sin right now so that you would recognize your need to be right with HimTitus 3:3-7 *“For we ourselves also once were* *foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the kindness and affection of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy,*  | 22*through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*He has shown nothing but kindness and love to us, how can we do anything other than to respond to that love and kindness He showed to us?  |