

October 6/7, 2012

The Gospel Story: Not by Works

A Study of Romans

Romans 3:1-20

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Do you think most people in our community avoid Jesus more by being bad or by being good? Why do you think that?
2. Describe how the two brothers in the story of the prodigal son represent the two main groups Jesus encountered in His earthly ministry. Describe how these two groups would manifest themselves in our culture today. Is there significance to the fact that in the story the prodigal son ends up partying with his father while the older son does not?
3. In II Corinthians 11 Paul refers to Satan as one who disguises himself as an angel of light. In the context of II Corinthians it seems evident he is referring to religion when he makes this comment. How might Satan use religion to keep people from Jesus?

Bible Study

1. Review what Paul said in Romans 2:25-29. Who are the true Jews and what is the true circumcision?
2. Read Romans 3:1-4. What advantage was there to being a Jew? In a similar way what are the advantages of being a good religious person in our culture today?
3. Paul and the religious Jews were defining “advantage” differently. The Jews thought being Jewish meant they were exempt from God’s judgment and wrath; that even if they did sin God was bound by His promise to “save” them. What are some misunderstandings that religious people might have today concerning the promises of God and His salvation?
4. The more secular we become as a culture the more we elevate our view of man and lower our view of God. When we do this we begin to think it unfair that God would hold us accountable for our choices and we seek to explain away the judgment of God. How does Paul use David’s confession (Rom. 3:4) from Ps. 51 to challenge this belief? In other words, how does David’s confession of sin reveal the righteousness of God?

5. Read Romans 3:5-18. The basic argument here from the religious Jews is that if their sin actually reveals the righteousness of God and His judgment, then how could God see their sin as a bad thing worthy of His condemnation? In other words, if the end result is glorifying to God then how could God be just in His punishment of them? How might people today seek to argue away the judgment of God?
6. Review the 7 Old Testament quotes Paul uses to make his case that we are all under sin. Is anyone good enough for God?
7. Read Romans 3:19-20. What is Paul's summary of Romans 1:18-2:20? Rewrite verses 19 and 20 in your own words. How bad is the bad news?

Application

1. What are the good things about religion in our culture and what are the dangers or concerns?
2. Talk about what might be the most effective way to reach the Romans 1 people in our community and what might be the most effective way to reach the Romans 2 people in our community?
3. Based on Romans 1:18-3:20 what must the Gospel story include to accurately reflect the need for a Savior?