

The Reality of Romans Part 10

“There is None Righteous!”

Romans 2:17-29

The Word of the Lord reveals the character of God; by faith I will receive it so that I may give an account of my faith.

Introduction: There is a phrase that we have heard all our lives and have certainly been guilty of saying or at least thinking. The Phrase is “**That’s not fair**”

A. Now what is it that we base this assessment?

1. We base it on a couple different things:

- #1 I deserve it, I deserve it because I have done well at something (this is legit in a lot of things that we do I guess from a world view point)
- #2 I am better than then others so therefore it is not fair I shouldn’t receive before someone else should. (Ok I guess this also could be legit if you are in some sort of contest)

2. There are things in this life that truly seem unfair and probably are from a world prospective!

➤ But there is a real problem when this attitude overs over into our doctrine and our teaching and understanding of the salvation of God.

B. The truth is that all believers are treated unfairly but maybe not the way we selfishly think.

➤ And we should thank God for it!

1. When we say that something is unfair what we are saying is that someone got something was not deserved or at least not as deserving.

- When God saves us from our sin I can say with all confidence that it is not because we deserved it, God did not look through time and see that I was going to deserve it.
- God did not save me because Grandpa and Grandma were pillars of the church although the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is an amazing legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren.
- What is “fair” for all mankind is to die in our sin and spend eternity in torments separated from a Holy God!
- But God sent his only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have eternal life!
 - *9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9

= He cleanses us not because it's fair but because He is Sovereign!

= He saves us not because fair but because it is eternal plan for all those who believe!

- *And we know that [a]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.* Romans 8:28-30

Transition: What Paul is going to show us is that nobody deserves a relationship with God “There is None Righteous Not Even One!” It is really not “fair” that anybody receives the righteous mercy of God!

- A. Now in verse 4 and verse 6 Paul uses this phrase to make a strong point “May it never be”

1. Let's look in between the use of these two phrases and see what would illicit such a strong statement.

I. **May It Never Be** verse 1-4 **READ**

A. So what is the advantage of being a Jew?

- What benefit does the one who is born a Jew have?

➤ Well there is a great advantage!

1. The advantage to the Jew was that they had been exposed to, as Paul puts it, the oracles of God, the very words of God.

2. Not only exposed to it but God entrusted it to the Jews!

- The oracles of God was the entire Old Testament, they had been given the plan of God for the salvation of man through the Messiah!

➤ That is a great advantage!

- *Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not [a]understand the Scriptures or the power of God?"* Mark 12:24

- The problem is not a lack of information but the mistake is not understanding the scriptures or the power of God!

- Paul addresses it in again in 2 Timothy *You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is [a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for [b]training in righteousness;* 2

Timothy 3:14-16

= The Jews had a great advantage having received the very words of the true and living God concerning salvation!

- And yet they refuse to believe it, they had refused to acknowledge that Jesus was the Messiah the Son of God!

B. So then we are faced with this question:

- *What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?* Romans 3:3

1. The question is so if a Jew by birth and circumcision does not believe the plan of salvation does it nullify the faithfulness of God?

- Now we see Paul's response "May it never be!" Because if a man, even if the majority men do not believe the oracles of God does not change them or make them less true and powerful!

2. May it never be let the Word of God be found true even if every man lies and says that it is not!

- *May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "That You may be justified in Your words, And prevail when You [a]are judged."* Romans 3:4

Transition: Simply because they are outwardly Jews did not at all make them deserving of the salvation of God!

- A. Paul makes it clear that regardless of lineage no one can inherit the promises of God without coming to repentance turning from the world and following God!
- In verse 6 Paul says it again "**May it never Be!**"

II. **May it Never Be** verse 5-8 **READ**

A. Paul says we have it backwards: One writer compared it this way: It is like when a jeweler lays the jewelry on a piece of black velvet it makes the jewelry look better.

- God needs nothing from man to display His amazing righteousness!

1. Paul says he is speaking in human terms: He is simply replaying the thoughts of the undegenerated mind that sees God's righteousness according to man.
 - Man see that there needs to be sin so that God's righteousness can be seen.
- Paul says **"May it Never Be"**
 - B. So then if that is true then the God that inflicts wrath on unrighteousness is not righteous at all.
- Paul says **"May it Never Be"!**
 1. If God needs man to sin to show his righteousness then how could God ever judge the world, how could He ever convict the sinner?
 2. It is Paul's stance and it is the truth of scripture that if God condoned sin, He would be unrighteous in His judgment and have no basis on which to judge man!
- **"May it Never Be"!**

Transition: So then we must all be on a pretty level playing field right?

- A. If the Jew who has from the beginning had the very oracles of God, if the Jew was set apart by circumcision, if all of man refutes the righteousness of God, if all men are sinners:
 - Then is anybody any better than anybody else!
- III. **There are None Righteous Not Even One** verse 9-18
 - A. No one is any better than anybody else!
 1. Jew or Gentile
 2. Black or White
 3. Rich or Poor
 4. Big or Small

5. Educated or Uneducated
6. Or anything else that man uses to segregate his fellow man we are all sinners and I believe that puts all in about the same spot, not a very good spot but never the less the same spot!

➤ There is None Righteous Not even one!

B. Here is a description of all of us:

- *There is none who understands,*
There is none who seeks for God; Romans 3:11
 1. Verse 11 Nobody understands: God is too big for our finite minds!
 2. Verse 11 Nobody seeks after God: If God does seek us the we will not be found!
- *All have turned aside, together they have become useless;*
There is none who does good,
There is not even one.” Romans 3:12
 3. Verse 12 Everybody has turned away making man useless: Man going in his own direction is arrogance and pride and ends in destruction.
 4. Verse 12 Nobody does anything good, nobody: Man is incapable of doing God outside the power of God’s grace.
- *“Their throat is an open grave,*
With their tongues they keep deceiving,”
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;
“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”; Romans 3:13-14
 5. Verse 13-14 Left to himself everything that man says is poison and is bitter and ungodly: Man talks only of himself and is filled with foolish pride.
- *“Their feet are swift to shed blood,*
Destruction and misery are in their paths,

And the path of peace they have not known. Romans 3:15-18

6. Verse 15-18 Man seeks his own path stepping on or over anyone and everything that gets in his arrogant way: Man is ever seeking the path of peace but can never find it in their own path.

- Man is truly a mess: There is None righteous not even one!

Transition: So the result is that there is no fear of God before Man!

- *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* Romans 3:18

- That is the result of man view that God’s righteousness depends on man’s reaction to it.

- Look around Church! There is no fear of God: We just go our merry way claiming that there is a God but having no fear of Him because in the mind of man God doesn’t matter unless he fits into our plan.

Closing: Let me finish with a couple thoughts from these last two verses:

- *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.*

Romans 3:19-20

A. Every single human being is guilty:

1. The Jews received the written Law of God through Moses:

- *Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.* Romans 3:2

2. The Gentiles have the works of the Law written on their hearts:

- *in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them*, Romans 2:15

- All of Mankind is accountable to God!
- It is impossible for man to defend himself He is guilty and can bring nothing before the judge to claim otherwise.
- The indisputable Holy Law of God makes us accountable to the holiness of God and every single human being not only comes up short but misses the mark completely!

= Church our hope is not in ourselves and our pitiful situation it is in power of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ!

= We cannot justify ourselves before God but we can stand justified before Him through our justifier, Jesus!

= Church it's not fair it is Grace!