

**WEEK 4: The Justice of God's Judgment – Romans 2**

January 28, 2016

*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. – Romans 2:4-5 ESV*

We love to talk about God's love and mercy, but we struggle with the idea of God's judgment or wrath against sin. Especially when it comes to us. We can easily find others who probably deserve God's judgment, but we somehow think we are better. We see ourselves as inherently good and worthy of God's special attention. But Paul would warn us not to believe that lie. The Jews, who enjoyed a special relationship with God, were just as guilty and worthy of God's wrath as the worst, ungodly, unrighteous Gentile. No one can merit God's love and mercy. One person is no more deserving of His forgiveness and grace than any other. And when God stands in judgment of man, He is fully just and righteous in His verdict of guilty, regardless of how religious they may be or how virtuous they may appear.

**Take Notes (Teaching):**

As you listen to today's lesson, write down anything significant that you hear. Be ready to share them with the men at your table during the discussion time.

- **Take Part (Discussion):**

Sometimes God has a way of speaking through others as they provide insights or different applications from the lessons. As you discuss around your table, write down anything you hear that makes an impact on you. Or if you hear another man share a struggle or concern, write it down so that you can pray for him during the week.

- **Take Time (Prayer):**

Be sure and leave a few minutes for the sharing of prayer requests. Remember, keep your requests short and sweet. Don't let the details bog you down. We don't have to understand all that is going on to pray effectively.

# HOMework

## Homework for week 5 – The Righteousness of God – Romans 3

- Read chapter 3 all the way through, being sure to mark any repetitive words or phrases. Look for anything that catches your attention or raises a question. Write them down here:
  
- Look at verse 5. What do you think Paul means when he says that our unrighteousness shows God’s righteousness?
  
- Read verses 9-12 again. How does it make you feel when you read that “none is righteous, no, not one”?

According to verse 9, all men are under sin. How have you seen that to be true in your own life? How have you seen the effects of sin on your thoughts, actions and relationships?

- Read verse 19 from the *New Living Translation*:  
*Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.*

Paul indicates that God’s law applied to the Jews to whom it was given. What does he indicate as the purpose for the law?

Read the following passages and write down next to each one what they teach you about God’s law:

Galatians 3:19 –

Romans 5:20 –

Romans 7:7 –

Romans 3:20 –

- Now look at verses 21-22. How do you think the righteousness of God been made known or revealed apart from the law?
- Read verses 23-26. What does it mean to fall short of God’s glory?

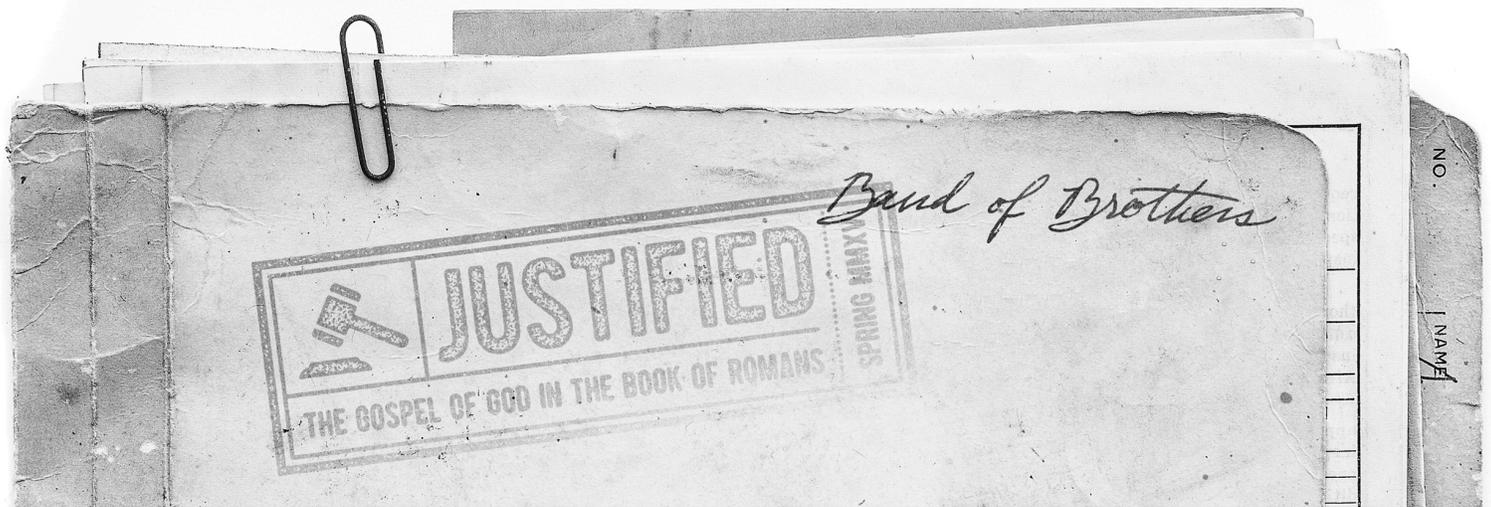
The Greek word that is translated, “justified” is *dikaioō* and it means, “to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be.” It refers to our being made right with God. According to these verses, how are we justified before God?

What kind of righteousness is God looking for?

- According to verses 27-29, why is there no room for anyone to boast when it comes to being made right with God?

Even as a believer, what are some things you tend to boast about or take pride in when it comes to your own life? In what ways do you sometimes see yourself as better than others or deserving of God’s grace and mercy?

Would you be willing to confess those things to God right now and thank Him that He is the one who justifies?



#### WEEK 4: The Justice of God's Judgment: Romans 2

One great problem with sin is that it leads to self-justification, so that anything that happens to us that we do not like is immediately perceived as being unjust, a reason to fault God for his ordering of the universe. The cry of the rebellious heart is always, "The only thing I want from God is justice!" God forbid that you should receive justice from God! – James Montgomery Boice, *Romans, Volume I*

- **Who are you to judge?**

*Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. – Romans 2:1 ESV*

- Judgment is the theme of this chapter
  - He will compare the judgment of man and the judgment of God
  - He is out to stress the justice of God's judgment
  - Man has no right to judge – God does
  - He is the one who has the sole right to judge
  - He is the only one truly righteous
  - And He is the only one worthy to pass sentence
  - So man is without excuse when he judges
    - He is just as guilty
    - He condemns himself
    - He practices the very same things (Romans 1:29-31)
- **The self-righteous hypocrite**
  - Those who look down their noses at others
  - The moral elitist (see Luke 18:9-12)
    - He doesn't understand the nature and extent of sin
    - He's blind to his own faults
    - He has an over-inflated sense of self-worth
    - He's overly judgmental of the sins of others
    - He thinks he is somehow immune to God's judgment
    - He mistakes God's kindness as approval
    - But he is storing up wrath on the day of judgment (Romans 2:5)

The basis of God's judgment of us will be our works. This does not mean some will be saved by works. Rather, believers will give an account of their works, and nonbelievers will be judged according to their works. – R. Kent Hughes, *Romans: Righteousness From Heaven*

- See 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10; and 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

- **God's Judgment**

- No one has the right to judge, but God
- Our sin disqualifies us from passing judgment on others

God's judgment is so perfect that he takes into account one's moral perception in rendering judgment. To be sure, no one escapes condemnation. All fall short. None measure up to their own moral perceptions of right and wrong, let alone God's law. No one will ever be able to rise before God and declare that he has been unfair. – R. Kent Hughes, *Romans: Righteousness From Heaven*

- **The Jews' Guilt**

- The Jews did not have a leg to stand on
- They had the honor of being members of the Jewish race
- They had been entrusted with the law of Moses
- They were proud of their unique relationship with God
- They had a knowledge of God's will
- They were able to discern right from wrong
- They were in a position to help others understand the truth about God
- They had the responsibility to reach others about God

But they were just as guilty!

HERE'S THE PROBLEM:

- They had the law, but didn't obey it
- They had the outward sign of a right relationship with God (circumcision, but didn't live like it)
- They were in the same boat as the Gentiles
- Guilty and without excuse! (Deuteronomy 10:15-17)

- **God's kindness, forbearance and patience**

- kindness
  - His actions toward us in the gospel
  - The power of God for salvation
- Forbearance
  - His delay in implementing judgment
  - He bears with us
- Patience
  - *Makrothyumia* – great patience
  - He bears with man's sin a long time
  - Man asks, "Why would God let any perish?" *Because they all deserve it.*
  - Paul asks, "Why would God spare anyone?" *Because none of them deserve it.*
  - But He shows kindness, forbearance and patience

- **God's goal: Man's repentance (2 Peter 3:9)**