

Wrestling with Romans
Romans 3:21-31
Discussion Guide, March 7, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. – Romans 3:20*

- Did you take any action in recognition of your own sinfulness this past week?

OPEN:

- When have you escaped a penalty that you were sure you were going to have to pay?

Last week we talked about the bad news, how we are all guilty and therefore are deserving of God's wrath. This week, we turn to the good news.

READ and ASK: Romans 3:21-31

- What new righteousness has been made known?
 - o What is the source of righteousness and how does someone obtain it?
- What heritage do you share with every person who has ever lived?
- What did God do to provide a means of justification and forgiveness for every person?
 - o What makes Christianity good news?
 - o What makes it difficult for many of us to believe that we can gain God's forgiveness by faith in Jesus?
- How does this text prove God's righteousness (that he does right and exercises justice) and faithfulness (he keeps his promises)?
- On what basis can a person brag about his or her righteousness?
- Fundamentally, what do we need to do to be declared righteous in God's sight?
 - o What does it mean to believe and put your faith in Jesus?
- What is the relationship between having faith and observing the law?
- What is the big truth of this text?

APPLY:

- Martin Luther, John Wesley, and Karl Barth all declared that this passage changed their lives. How has this passage impacted your life? Are there any ways that it still needs to?

- How can retelling your "but now" story be an effective way to share the gospel with someone else?
 - o NEXT STEP: Who do you need to share the gospel with and what is one step you can take towards that this week?

Memory Work:

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. - Romans 2:23-24