

GROUP QUESTIONS

God's Answers in Romans: What is God's Solution?

April 18, 2010

Romans 3:19-31

1. Please read Romans 3:19-31.
2. Was there anything in the sermon that concerned you, helped you or confused you?
3. Discuss how all systems of trying to follow a moral code or religion other than the gospel can be seen as fitting into the overarching system of self-salvation through merit.
4. Do the people described by Paul in Romans 1:18-32, who suppress the truth and ignore their consciences, also believe in the system of self-salvation--that one must follow some moral code or religion to be saved?
5. What is the difference between the system of self-salvation through merit and the gospel? Where in Romans 3:19-31 is the gospel summarized? Do you get it?
6. Share about the most recent situation in which you temporarily forgot the gospel and acted as if you were earning your salvation and this was evidenced by you feeling proud or discouraged or even agitated. What are some other situations where you tend to do that?
7. What helps you to remember the gospel each day and avoid going into the default mode of trying to earn God's favor? What are the advantages of going through a day with the firm conviction in the front of your mind that:
 - Jesus, your Champion, has done it all
 - He is with you and the Spirit is empowering you
 - You are forgiven, cherished, and headed for an amazing future
 - You have the privilege of sharing the love and grace you have received with others.
8. How can we pray for you

Quotes:

"...it is necessary that Christ should come to our aid;
who, being alone just, can render us just by transferring to us his own righteousness.
You now see how the righteousness of faith is the righteousness of Christ.

When therefore we are justified,

- the efficient cause is the mercy of God,
- the meritorious [cause] is Christ,
- the instrumental [cause] is the word in connection with faith."

--John Calvin

"...there is no greater arrogance than not to desire to be justified by faith in Christ... While therefore they who are of the Law are arrogant and boastful, they who are of faith are humble and despise their own righteousness."--Martin Luther

"Faith is *self*-renouncing; works are *self*-congratulatory. Faith looks to what God does; works have respect to what we are. It is this antithesis of principle that enables the apostle to base the complete exclusion of works upon the principle of faith... Luther added nothing to the *sense* of the passage when he said "by faith alone".--John Murray

We all end up choosing between one of two systems:

1. SELF-SALVATION through MERIT.
2. RELYING on a CHAMPION, Jesus, as our SUBSTITUTE.

General Revelation: truth revealed through creation and our conscience

Special Revelation: truth revealed supernaturally by God