

The background features a close-up of weathered stone masonry. A prominent circular opening is visible on the left side. A semi-transparent cross-shaped graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by golden-brown and yellow tones, suggesting a bright, sunny environment.

ROMANS

Week #1: The Gospel is “Good News”: (Romans 1:2-6)

1. It was promised long ago by God.
2. It is about His Son:
 - He is fully human – a descendent of King David.
 - He is fully God – raised from death by the Holy Spirit.
3. His name is Jesus Christ!
4. He is for everyone ... all people, all nations, all of us.

... But why is Jesus good news... and why do I need him?

Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality: (Romans 1:17-3:20)

... No One Is Righteous In God's Sight.

1¹⁸ *The wrath of God is being revealed against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness ...*

Key: *What does God's wrath look like? What does He do?*

- He *abandons* us to our choices.
- He lets us have what we want ... *all* of it.

Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality: (Romans 1:17-3:20)

1. The Pagan: (1:18-32)

- God *lets me choose* what I do with my life.
- God has boundaries. He will not join me in my rebellion & folly.
- When I reject what I know is right, God lets me experience *ALL* the consequences of my choices.
- God is not to blame for my problems ... I am.

Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality: (Romans 1:17-3:20)

1. The Pagan: (1:18-32)

2. **The Self-Righteous:** (2:1-16)

- There *will* be a day of reckoning ... for me, too.
- When God judges me, He will be impartial.
- When God judges me, He will be fair.
- When God judges me, He will miss nothing.
- When God judges me, He wants Jesus to be there.

Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality: (Romans 1:17-3:20)

1. The Pagan: (1:18-32)
2. The Self-Righteous: (2:1-16)
3. **The Religious:** (2:17-3:20)

Even the most strident religious commitment:

- cannot remove my guilt.
- does not replace my emptiness.
- will not repair my brokenness.
- cannot restore my relationship with God.

Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality: (Romans 1:17-3:20)

¹⁰ As the Scriptures say,

“No one is righteous—not even one.

¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

¹² All have turned away; all have become useless.

No one does good, not a single one.” ...

¹⁸... They have no fear of God at all.

Weeks 2-4: A Terrifying Reality: (Romans 1:17-3:20)

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Our Dilemma: All of us stand before God morally deficient.

- the *pagan*, the *self-righteous* and the *religious* all share the same fate – an inability to satisfy God's moral standard ... *Perfection*.

The Truth: The only righteousness acceptable to God is His own.

- the way to God is impossible by human effort

*⁶ We are all infected and impure with sin.
When we display our righteous deeds,
they are nothing but filthy rags.*

Isaiah 64

If anyone could feel that the flesh could do something for him, I could. ⁵ I went through the religious act of becoming a Jew when I was eight days old. I was born a Jew from the family group of Benjamin - a Jewish son of Jewish parents. I belonged to the Pharisees – a proud group of religious law-keepers. ⁶ I followed my religion with all my heart ... No one could say anything against the way I obeyed the Law ...

⁹ But I could not be right with God by what the Law said I must do.

Paul – Philippians 3

Question: Is My Dilemma Fair?

- Is it fair that God holds me to a righteousness that I cannot attain?

¹³ When you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

James 1

Question: Is My Dilemma Fair?

- Is it fair that God holds me to a righteousness that I cannot attain?

¹⁵ I don't really understand myself – I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate ...¹⁸ I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway...

²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am!
Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

Paul – Romans 7

Question: Is My Dilemma Fair?

- Is it fair that God holds me to a righteousness that I cannot attain?

It would perhaps be unfair if God didn't do anything about it, but He has done something ...

- **In Jesus, God has imparted upon me the one thing I need – His Righteousness in place of mine!**

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

This Week: The Gospel is Good News: (Part 1)

1. Because it satisfies my need for righteousness: (Rom. 3:20-25a)

- In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God's sight!

a. A righteousness not connected with keeping the law. (v.21a)

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law ...

The greatest lie of religion is that people can achieve a right-standing with God by their own human effort.

This Week: The Gospel is Good News:

1. Because it satisfies my need for righteousness: (Rom. 3:20-25a)

- In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God's sight!

a. a righteousness not connected with keeping the law. (v.21a)

b. A righteousness promised by God throughout the Old Testament. (v.21b)

²¹But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

This Week: The Gospel is Good News:

1. Because it satisfies my need for righteousness: (Rom. 3:20-25a)

- In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God's sight!
 - a. a righteousness not connected with keeping the law. (v.21a)
 - b. a righteousness promised by God throughout the Old Testament. (v.21b)
 - c. A righteousness acquired by faith in Jesus. (v.22a)
²² We are made right with God ... by placing our faith in Jesus Christ

This Week: The Gospel is Good News:

1. Because it satisfies my need for righteousness: (Rom. 3:20-25a)

- In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God's sight!
 - a. a righteousness not connected with keeping the law. (v.21a)
 - b. a righteousness promised by God throughout the Old Testament. (v.21b)
 - c. a righteousness acquired by faith in Jesus. (v.22a)
 - d. A righteousness God provides to anyone who believes. (v.22b)

²² *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.*

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 - c. a righteousness acquired by faith in Jesus. (v.22a)
 - d. a righteousness God provides to anyone who believes. (v.22b)
 - e. a righteousness given through God's grace alone. (v.23-24)

²³ *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight.*

This Week: The Gospel is Good News:

1. Because it satisfies my need for righteousness: (Rom. 3:20-25a)

- In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God's sight!
 - a. a righteousness not connected with keeping the law. (v.21a)
 - b. a righteousness promised by God throughout the Old Testament. (v.21b)
 - c. a righteousness acquired by faith in Jesus. (v.22a)
 - d. a righteousness God provides to anyone who believes. (v.22b)
 - e. a righteousness given through God's grace alone. (v.23-24)

 - f. a righteousness fully paid in Jesus – full redemption . (v. 24)

²⁴ *Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*

In Jesus I am made righteous – *justified* – in God's sight!

When a sinner is justified by God, the Lord does not fake Himself out and view the individual as innocent of sin. Rather, the divine act of justification declares a sinner absolutely acceptable to the Heavenly Father from the moment they trust in Christ's payment for their sin. And since the Father is satisfied with His Son, He is also satisfied with all those who are in His Son through faith.

Swindoll