

Paul wrote this letter to bring about the obedience of faith in Jesus Christ for the glory of God. (Cf. Rom. 1:5; 16:25-27)

ESV Outline:

Romans 1:8–15	Paul's Longing to Visit Rome
Romans 1:16–15	The Righteous Shall Live by Faith
Romans 1:18–32	God's Wrath on Unrighteousness
Romans 2:1–11	God's Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:12–29	God's Judgment and the Law
Romans 3:1–8	God's Righteousness Upheld
Romans 3:9–20	No One Is Righteous
Romans 3:21–31	The Righteousness of God Through Faith (Next Week – 27-31)
Romans 4:1–12	Abraham Justified by Faith
Romans 4:13–25	The Promise Realized Through Faith
Romans 5:1–11	Peace with God Through Faith
Romans 5:12–21	Death in Adam, Life in Christ
Romans 6:1–14	Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Romans 6:15–23	Slaves to Righteousness
Romans 7:1–6	Released from the Law
Romans 7:7–25	The Law and Sin
Romans 8:1–11	Life in the Spirit
Romans 8:12–17	Heirs with Christ
Romans 8:18–30	Future Glory
Romans 8:31–39	God's Everlasting Love
Romans 9:1–29	God's Sovereign Choice
Romans 9:30–10:4	Israel's Unbelief
Romans 10:5–21	The Message of Salvation to All
Romans 11:1–10	The Remnant of Israel
Romans 11:11–24	Gentiles Grafted In
Romans 11:25–36	The Mystery of Israel's Salvation
Romans 12:1–2	A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:3–8	Gifts of Grace
Romans 12:9–21	Marks of the True Christian
Romans 13:1–7	Submission to the Authorities
Romans 13:8–14	Fulfilling the Law Through Love
Romans 14:1–12	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Romans 14:13–23	Do Not Cause Another to Stumble
Romans 15:1–7	The Example of Christ
Romans 15:8–13	Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles
Romans 15:14–21	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles
Romans 15:22–33	Paul's Plan to Visit Rome
Romans 16:1–16	Personal Greetings
Romans 16:17–23	Final Instructions and Greetings
Romans 16:25–27	Doxology

Sermon Notes

Sunday, September 20, 2020

“Not Guilty” by God’s Grace!

Romans 3:21-26–20

ROMANS

The Glory of God

Exodus 34:6–7

⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God *merciful* and *gracious*, slow to anger, and abounding in *steadfast love* and *faithfulness*, ⁷ keeping *steadfast love* for thousands, *forgiving* iniquity and transgression and sin, **but** who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

God’s Gift of “Not Guilty” through Faith in Jesus!


Jesus, the mercy seat, is the fountainhead through whom **God** fulfils all his gospel promises.

Martin Luther – “the chief point ... of the whole Bible” “if that article stands, the church stands; if it falls, the church falls.”

²¹ **But now** the righteousness of God has been manifested *apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—*

²² the righteousness of God *through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

²⁴ (being) ~~and are~~ **justified by his grace as a gift,** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, 

- I. The Way of “**God’s Righteousness**” Revealed
 - A. Not by Law...Law Testifies to it...
 - B. Short of God’s Glory
- II. **Righteousness** by God’s Grace, as a Gift, through Faith
 - A. **Justification:** Declared not Guilty
 - B. By His Grace...as a Gift (24)
 - C. Through Faith in Jesus Christ... (22; cpt. 4-5)
 - C². Through the Redemption... (24) 

God is “Not Guilty”

Jesus, the mercy seat, is the fountainhead through whom **God** fulfils all his gospel promises.

God is *righteous* in making this declaration.

“Those who ignore or minimize the problem inherent in a holy God accepting sinners may well heed **Anselm’s** own warning: “You have not yet considered the weight of sin.”¹

I. God “Put Forward” Jesus!

²⁵ whom **God put forward** (publicly) as a **propitiation** by his **blood, to be received by faith.**



- A. Propitiation
- B. Mercy Seat

II. It was to Show God’s Righteousness (Past & Present)

This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine **forbearance** he had passed over former sins.

²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 4:24–25 (like Abraham)

²⁴ ...**It** (our confidence in God’s promises) will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,
²⁵ who was **delivered up for our trespasses** and **raised for our justification.**

In Christ, We Really are “Not Guilty”

God put Christ forward
so that could be pleased with us
in a way that was consistent with his own glorious
character!

Some Implications:

- ✓ Boasting in ourselves is shattered
- ✓ Freedom from fear: We are loved!
- ✓ Boasting in the glory of God is confirmed:

Arise, my soul, arise,
Shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice,
In my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

My God is reconciled;
His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child;
I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father, " cry.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How great is the love of God that he loved us while we were yet sinners?
2. consider how comforting it is that because of Jesus we are really not guilty before God! Do you need this reminder? Who could you talk and pray with about this?
3. Consider how the conviction of the “badness” of our sin only serves to heighten the joy & amazement of our justification! Spend some time this week praising God for this amazing gift.
4. Why is it so important that God punishes sin? How could you explain this to an unbelieving friend?
5. This joy is too good to keep to ourselves. Continue to pray with earnestness for those in your life who do not yet know this joy. Who could you pray through this list with?

¹ Moo, D. J. (1996). *The Epistle to the Romans* (p. 242). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.