

SOLID

FREED TO SERVE GOD

ROMANS 3:9-26

- Have you ever done something to earn someone's favour?

- How do some people try to earn God's approval?

If we feel we must somehow earn God's acceptance of us, we end up acting out of a sense of guilt. In the book of Romans, Paul speaks about justification, the biblical foundation upon which a right relationship is built – with ourselves, with others and with God. It frees us to be all that God intends for us.

Read Romans 3:9-26

1. How does Paul portray humanity (in general) in verses 10-18?

2. How does this compare with the way you view people?

3. The terminology Paul uses in this passage comes from the Roman legal system. In this courtroom scene, God is the judge who is evaluating men and women on the basis of their obedience to his law. What do verses 19-20 tell us about the nature and outcome of this trial?

4. Verses 21-26 introduce several key words which help us to understand the nature of salvation. A *justified* person (v24) has no legal charges against him or her and is therefore *righteous* in the eyes of the law. Why is our justification remarkable in the light of our spiritual and moral condition?

5. How will a proper understanding of what God has done for you in Christ affect the way you view yourself?

6. The word *redemption* (v24) is borrowed from the slave market. It means to buy someone out of slavery. What are some of the ways we were enslaved as non-Christians?

7. What are some of the forms of enslavement that we struggle with as Christians?

8. How can Jesus free us in areas we continue to struggle with?

9. The expression *sacrifice of atonement* (v25) is taken from the Old Testament sacrificial system. The death of a sacrificial animal turned away God's wrath from the sinner. How does this imagery help us to understand and appreciate what Jesus did for us on the cross?

10. How can the fact that God has accepted and forgiven us through Christ affect our relationships with one another and with God?

The End Bit!

Never forget to praise God and thank Him for His great love in sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross at Calvary for our sins.

Christ not only justifies us (declares us "not guilty"), He also accepts us into His family. Adoption is not a change in nature, but a change in status. We are no longer orphans or slaves – we are God's children!

Verses to Remember:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2