

Romans



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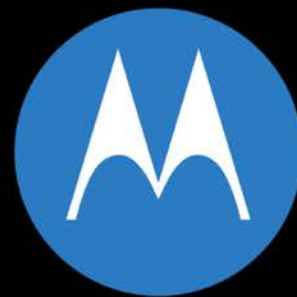


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This Week's Sermon

“Jesus Overturns Our Self-Justification”

Romans 3:1-8

The Big Idea:

The default setting of the human heart is toward self-justification. In other words, we want to put forth our own right standing before others and God and we become defensive when that is threatened.

Seeing Jesus as he is causes us to stop missing the point as he overturns our self-righteousness. Only the gospel offers the security we need to stop blaming others, denying the truth, and defending ourselves as we instead get to rest in the righteousness of Jesus.

Today's Message

1. Romans 3:1-8 in Context
2. Self-Justification in Action
3. Jesus Overturns Self-Justification

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 1:32

32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Romans 2:1

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

Romans 2:12-13, 23

12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.

Romans 2:28-29

28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Romans 3:1-8

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4 By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

**“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”**

Romans 3:1-8

5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come? — as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Entrusted With The Oracles

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. **To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.** 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?



I
II
III
IV
V

VI
VII
VIII
IX
X

Isaiah complaineth of
must have a thousand, and those
that keep the fruit thereof two hun-
dred.

13 Thou that dwellest in the gar-
dens, the companions hearken to

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET I-SĀT-ĀH.

CHAPTER 1.

1 *Isaiah complaineth of Judah for her re-
bellion. 5 He lamenteth her judgments. 16
10 He upbraideth her whole service. 16
He exhorteth to repentance, with promises
and threatenings. 25 He promiseth grace,
28 and threateneth destruction to the wicked.*

THE vision of I-sĀt-āh the son
of A-mōz, which he saw con-
cerning Jū-dāh and Jē-rū-sā-lēm
in the days of Uz-zī-āh, Jō-thām,
A-hāz, and Hēs-ē-kī-āh, kings of
Jū-dāh.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear,
O earth: for the Lord hath spoken,
I have nourished and brought up
children, and they have rebelled
against me.

3 They are known by name, and
they are his ministers: but they
have despised his name, they have
said, We will not be his ministers,
because we are many: we will not
be his servants, because we are
many.

B. C. c. 760.

^a Job 27. 18.

^b Jer. 4. 17.

^d Rom. 9. 29.

^e Gen. 19. 24.

^f Num. 12. 6.

^g Deut. 32. 32.

^h Deut. 32. 1.

ⁱ 1 Sam. 16. 20.

^j Job 2. 20.

^k Mic. 1. 2.

^a as a cottage in a
lodge in a garden of
a besieged city.

9 Except the Lord
left unto us a very small
remnant, we should have
been as Sodom,
and we should have
been like Gomorrah.

10 Hear the word of
the Lord, ye rulers of
Sodom, and ye rulers of
Gomorrah.

11 To what purpose is
the multitude of your
sacrifices, saith the Lord;
I am weary of burnt
offerings of rams, the
blood of lambs, and the
fat of calves, and the
blood of bullocks, and
the fat of goats.

12 When ye come to
appear before me, who
hath required of your
hand, to tread my
court, saith the Lord,
ye say, We will not
obey, because we are
many: we will not be
his servants, because we
are many.

Romans 3:1-3

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

Romans 3:3b-4

Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4

By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

**“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”**

Romans 3:5-8

5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come? — as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Contention #1

5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say?

God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us.

Contention #2

7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?

I shouldn't be condemned as a sinner, and in fact I should do even more evil to make God look even better!



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"Obviously, I won't forget to bring the life jackets."

Self-Justification

Self-justification is the default setting of the human heart. We want to put forth our own right standing before others and God and we become defensive when that is threatened.

Self-Justification in Action

1. Blame
2. Deny
3. Defend

Self-Justification in Action

1. Blame
2. Deny
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Genesis 3:6, 12

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Self-Justification in Action

1. Blame
2. Deny
3. Defend



John 13:6-8

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What

I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him,

"You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

Self-Justification in Action

1. Blame
2. Deny
3. Defend



Mark 10:17-22

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’”

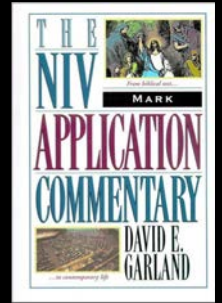
Mark 10:17-22

20 And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

“With an eye for poignant detail, Mark tells us that Jesus looked at the man and loved him (Mark 10:21). Jesus does not sneer at his claims to have obeyed the law. He believes what he says about his obedience; but because he loves him, he directly challenges him. He does not try to spare his feelings or avoid offending him but candidly speaks the truth. The man regards himself as respectably good, but being respectably good is not good enough. He lacks one thing...

“This statement implies that knowing the commandments and faithfully keeping them do not secure eternal life. Jesus does not tell the man specifically what the one thing is but gives him four directives: “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor.... Then come, follow me.” These commands stress that if one wants eternal life, everything depends on one’s response to Jesus.”



~David E. Garland, Mark, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 396.

Romans 3:1-3

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were **entrusted with the oracles of God.** 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

John 1:9-13

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 13:9

9 Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”





Mark 10:38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

“We first meet Mary and Martha in Luke, when Jesus is at their house. Martha is busy serving. Mary is sitting at Jesus’s feet, learning with the disciples. Martha complains and asks Jesus to tell Mary she should be serving, too.

But Jesus responds: “Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42). In a culture in which women were expected to serve, not to learn, Jesus affirms Mary’s learning from him. But far from dismissing Martha, John tells another story in which Jesus has a stunning conversation with her after her brother Lazarus has died.

“In fact, it seems that Jesus let Lazarus die partly so that he could have this conversation with Martha – whom he loved (John 11:5) – in which he uttered world-changing words: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25–26). Martha did.”



~Rebecca McLaughlin, *Jesus Changed Everything for Women*, TGC, 2021,
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-changed-everything-women>



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Jesus Overturns Self-Justification in Our Lives

1. Blame becomes ownership
2. Denial becomes honesty
3. Defending becomes rest

The Cross Overturns Self-Justification

1. Jesus takes our blame.

2. Jesus overcomes our denial.

3. Jesus defends us with his righteousness.

Gospel Response

Have you encountered Jesus as he is?

Be refreshed in Christ's righteousness