

Romans

SERMON SERIES

L'Idiotie Quotadine

Sunday, April 15, 1888

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The Merchant of Death is Dead!



Dr. Alfred Nobel, who made a fortune by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before, died yesterday.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Self-Justification, the personification of the tendency to rationalize and defend one's own actions and decisions, who passed away on April 29, 2023. Self-Justification was a prominent figure in human nature, influencing countless individuals throughout history.

Born in the depths of the human psyche, Self-Justification quickly grew to become a powerful force in shaping behavior and beliefs. Its influence could be seen in all aspects of life, from personal relationships to global politics.

Self-Justification was known for its ability to convince individuals that their actions were justifiable, even in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary. It often led to the perpetuation of harmful behaviors and attitudes, making it a divisive and controversial figure.

Despite its flaws, Self-Justification played an important role in human development. It pushed individuals to defend their beliefs and take action, sometimes leading to positive change. However, its unchecked power often led to stubbornness and resistance to change.

Self-Justification's passing is a reminder of the importance of self-reflection and critical thinking. Its legacy will be felt for years to come, as individuals continue to grapple with the tension between the desire to justify their actions and the need to acknowledge their flaws.

Self-Justification will be missed, but its passing offers an opportunity for growth and self-improvement. May its memory serve as a reminder to approach our actions and beliefs with honesty and humility, rather than blind justification.

This Week's Sermon:
Obituary of Self-Justification
Romans 3:9-20

Romans 3:9-20

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;
¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”

Romans 3:9-20

¹³ “Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 3:9-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

What is the main point of Romans?

Popular Question:

“How can a loving God send anyone to hell?”

Paul’s Question:

“How can a just God allow anyone in heaven?”

Not Even God's Chosen People?

Romans 3:9-20

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Romans 3:1-2

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.

Romans 3:9-20

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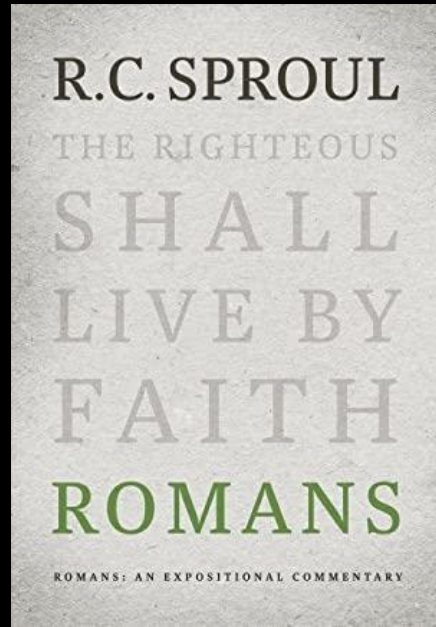
“None is righteous, no, not one;
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Total Depravity

Total depravity means simply this: that sin affects every aspect of our human existence: our minds, our wills and our bodies are affected by sin. Every dimension of our personality suffers at some point from the weight of sin that has infected the human race.

Sproul, R. C. (1994). *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans* (p. 63). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.



Total Depravity

We are not free moral agents making bad decisions...

Under Sin

Romans 3:9-20

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LITTLE
PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS

No Not One

Romans 3:9-20

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No One Seeks God?

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When we see people searching for such things as truth, peace of mind, eternal life or happiness, they are searching for relief from their guilt. These are things that Christians know only God can give them. So we leap to the conclusion that since they are searching diligently for those things which only God can give them, they must therefore be searching for God. But it is precisely this in which man's sinfulness consists, that man seeks for the benefits of God, while fleeing from the Person of God.

Thomas Aquinas



Does God Play Hide and Seek?

Does God Play Hide and Seek?



Does God Play Hide and Seek?

**The Story of Redemption is God seek us
when we try to hide from him**

The Inditement's against all of Humanity
doesn't stop

Romans 3:9-20

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When God examines an action, he considers it both in terms of its external action and its internal motive. For example, the law requires that we don't steal. If I refrain from stealing, I have done half the good deed, the external part. But the Bible teaches that a truly good deed is motivated by a heart that seeks to honour God, by a heart that is loving God. That's the internal dimension of the good deed. Though my outward acts may in fact conform to the external demands of the law, if they do not spring from a heart that loves God, then they are motivated by selfish desire. It is in that high sense of goodness that nobody outside of Christ ever does a good deed.

Sproul, R. C. (1994). *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans* (pp. 66–67). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.

We are worse than worthless idols

Romans 3:9-20

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¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

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¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

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Is there any hope?

Romans 3:9-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Paul is talking about people who think they will stand before the Judge of the Earth someday and think they are OK because of their good works.

Luke 1:79

⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Paul is talking about people who think they will stand before the Judge of the Earth someday and think they are OK because of their good works.

Romans 3:10-20 (For those in Christ Edition)

“All who have faith are declared righteous in Christ, yes,
everyone who believes;

¹¹ All are now capable of understanding;
All have the capacity to find God.

¹² All have turned to Jesus; together they have become
the church, the bride of Christ;
We all can do good for God's glory,
Yes, everyone.”

Romans 3:9-20

13 “Their voice is used for honor;
they use their tongues to declare the truth.”

“Sweet honey is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouth is full of blessing and grace.”

15 “Their feet are swift to help those in need;

16 in their paths are support and mercy,

17 and the way of peace through Christ has been made
known to them.”

18 “They fear the Lord, which is the beginning of
Wisdom.”

Gospel Application

*How can a Just God allow anyone in his presence?
Not by anything we have done
Only through Christ who is the way of peace.*