

# 2019 Leadership Conference Callaway Gardens

## Romans 1-4: Condemnation & Justification

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# Romans 1-4: Alignment of Hope

## OT Jewish Hope

- Righteousness is a result of obeying the law
- Claiming the promise to Abraham as heirs and the sign of Circumcision as proof

## NT Gospel Hope

- Righteousness is a result of grace
- Conscience of sin through the law
- A slave to sin, redeemed through Christ

# Romans 1-4: 5 Points of Alignment

1. The law only condemns
2. Circumcision is of the heart
3. Abraham was the father of faith, not obedience
4. Jews and Gentiles are alike in sin and their need for salvation
5. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only hope

# To the Jew first and also to the Greek

- Appears 3x: only in Romans 1-2
  - 1:16: The Gospel
  - 2:9 & 10: God's Judgment
- How can you be first?
  - Sequentially
    - 1,2,3...
  - Prominence
    - God's chosen people

# To the Jew first and also to the Greek

- Sequentially

- Jesus was promised to Jews first

- Romans 1:1; 3:21: The Law and the Prophets testify of Christ

- The Gospel presented to the Jews first

- Acts 3:26: “Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you...” - Peter

- Acts 13:46: “It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you” - Paul

# To the Jew first and also to the Greek

- The phrase encourages and rebukes both audiences:
  - Jew: You were chosen first, don't miss this
  - Gentile: You are included, but you aren't better
- Romans is predominantly written to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- Romans style as a diatribe
  - Imaginary opponent

# Romans 1-4: Three Section Overview

- 1:1-17 = The Good News
  - The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone. A righteousness by faith.
- 1:18-3:20 = The Bad News
  - Everyone is condemned by law. There is nothing you can do to make yourself righteous.
- 3:21-4:25 = The Really Good News
  - Righteousness apart from the law is revealed through belief in Jesus Christ. For free.

# Romans 1-4: Walkthrough

1. In the gospel, a righteousness from God is revealed, by faith.
2. The wrath of God is revealed. The world is condemned for its behavior, for they (Gentiles) knew God, and turned away.
3. You (Jews) judge them, but behave the same way.
4. The day of God's righteous impartial judgment is coming.
5. You (Jews) claim the law, brag and teach but disobey the same.
6. You (Jews) claim circumcision, but it is of no effect in disobedience.
7. No one is declared righteous by obeying the law, the law only makes us conscience of sin.
8. A righteousness from God 'apart from the law' is revealed, which is by faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
9. Abraham was the father of all who would be imputed righteousness through faith.



# Paul's Greeting & Desire to visit Rome

## Rom 1:1-15: Observations

- Begins with 2 Jewish only references in the first 3 verses of the epistle:
  - 1:2 “Which He had promised afore by His prophets in the holy scriptures.”
  - 1:3 “Concerning His son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.”

(Hebrews is the only other epistle that does this)

# Paul's Greeting & Desire to visit Rome

## Rom 1:1-15: Observations

- The first of 2 references to the resurrection:
  - 1:4 "...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."
  - 4:25 "Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."

# God's Righteousness Revealed (Rom 1:16-17)

“I am **not ashamed** of the gospel of Christ”

“for it is the power of **salvation** to every one that **believeth**; to the Jew first, and also the Greek.”

“For therein is **the righteousness of God** revealed from **faith to faith**.”

“as it is written: ‘the just shall live by faith’”.  
(Habakkuk 2:4)

# God's Wrath Revealed (Rom 1:18-32)

(1:18-21) The **wrath of God** is revealed against all who **hold the truth in unrighteousness**.

- That which may be known of God is manifest to them, for God showed it to them.
- Even the invisible things of him, his eternal power and divine nature
- So - They are without excuse
- They knew God and did not glorify Him nor were they thankful to Him

# God's wrath revealed (Rom 1:18-32)

## (1:21-23) Consequences of their behavior

- They became vain in their imaginations
- God darkened their hearts
- Professing wisdom, they became foolish
- They changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the corruptible images of man and creatures
- God gives them up

# God's wrath revealed (Rom 1:18-32)

(1:21-31) God gives them up in two ways

- Sexual Perversion (v24-27)
  - “to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts” (v24)
  - “to vile affections” including homosexuality (v26-27)
  - received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion (v27)
- To a reprobate mind (28-31)
  - the kitchen sink: covetousness, haters of God, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, covenant breakers, unmerciful.

# God's wrath revealed (Rom 1:18-32)

## (1:32) Without excuse

- They know the judgment of God: doing such things is worthy of death.
- They continue to sin, and have pleasure in them that do the same.
- God's wrath in the temporal:
  - Let's man have his way. A self-inflicted, purposeful, unreserved, continual and accelerated separation from God worthy of death.
- God's wrath in the eternal:
  - Rom 2:5: Day of God's Wrath where God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

# Jewish Illusion of Exemption (Rom 2:1-4)

- You (Jew) who judge and do the same things.
  - 2:1 “You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, **because you who pass judgment do the same things.**”



# God's Impartial Judgment (Rom 2:1-3:8)

This is a critical transition, from the Gentile condemnation in 1:18-32 to the Jewish condemnation from Chap 2:1 – 3:20.

Jewish self-deception that they were exempt from God's judgment even if they transgressed.

Rooted in 3 covenantal concepts:

- The Law
- Circumcision
- Descendants from Abraham

# Jewish Illusion of Exemption (Rom 2:1-4)

- We all know God's judgment is based on truth.
- Do you think you can get away with that?
- Did you not know that His tolerance and patience was to lead you to repentance?

# Impartial Judgment (Rom 2:5-16)

- An impartial judgment is coming. (2:5-11)
  - 2:5 “...you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.”
  - 2:11 “For God does not show favoritism.”
- Jews and Gentiles are judged by the law God gave them. (2:12-16)
  - The Jews by The Law
  - The Gentiles by the law written in their hearts
- God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ

# Jews and the Law (Rom 2:17-2:24)

- “Now you, if you call yourself a Jew...” (v17-20)
  - Rely on the law
  - Brag about your relationship with God
  - Know his will
  - Approve of what is right
  - Convinced you are a guide for the blind

# Jews and the Law (Rom 2:17-2:24)

- “God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” (v21-24)
  - Do you not teach yourself?
  - Do you steal?
  - Do you commit adultery?
  - Do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

# Jews and Circumcision (Rom 2:25-2:29)

- “Circumcision has value if you observe the law but if you break the law, you have become as though had not been circumcised.” (v25)
  - Being a Jew, circumcision is not only outward
  - Only a Jew if one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart, by the Spirit, not the law.

# Anticipated Questions (Rom 3:1-3:8)

- What advantage is there in being a Jew?
- Does the lack of faith of a few nullify God's faithfulness?
- If our unrighteousness magnifies God's righteousness, is God unjust for bringing his wrath on us?
- Let us do evil that good may come?

# No Righteousness from the Law (Rom 3:9-3:20)

- No one is righteous (v9-18)
  - Jews and Gentiles are alike in sin.
  - Psalm 14:1-3
    - No one is righteous not even one
    - No one who seeks God
    - No one who does good
  - Psalm 36:1
    - There is no fear of God before their eyes



# No Righteousness from the Law (Rom 3:9-3:20)

- v3:20 “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.”
  - This eliminates the hope of being declared righteous by obeying the law in 2:13 or of circumcision having value through observing the law in 2:25

# Righteousness through Christ (Rom 3:21-31)

Paul addresses 9 aspects of the Gospel  
answering 4 questions

1. What it is
2. Who it applies to
3. How it was accomplished
4. Why He did it

# Righteousness through Christ: What?

v3:21 “But now the **righteousness of God without the law** is manifested, being witnessed by **the Law and the Prophets.**”

- The concept of justification apart from the law is a completely new concept to Jew.
- Paul validates the concept to the Jew in his reference to the Law and Prophets

# Righteousness through Christ: Who?

- This righteousness is **by faith** in Jesus Christ upon all that **believe**
- There is no difference, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (3:9-18)

# Righteousness through Christ: How?

- Being **justified freely** by his **grace** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus
- Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through **faith** in his blood
- **Resurrected** for our justification (4:25)
  - Declared with power to be the son of God (1:4)

# Righteousness through Christ: Why?

- To declare His righteousness for the **remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God
- To declare, I say, **at this time** His righteousness
- That he might **be just, and the justifier** of him which believeth in Jesus.

# Abraham as the father of faith (Rom 4)

(4:3) “Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

## What did he believe?

- Reference: Gen 15:4-5
- Explained in Rom 4:18-22
  - Abraham was almost 100 years old
  - Sarah’s womb was dead

# Abraham as the father of faith (Rom 4)

## Abraham's Crediting / Imputing

1. Crediting (Imputing) is not based on works
2. Abraham was credited before circumcision
3. The promise was not received through the law

## Conclusion

Abraham is the father of all who would be credited righteousness through faith. The father of us all.



# Abraham as the father of faith (Rom 4)

## 1) Crediting not based on works

- Logical Example (4:4-5)
  - Working man is not credited as a gift, but an obligation
  - Not work, faith in God, his faith is credited as righteousness
- Scriptural Support (4:6-8)
  - Blessed is the man credited righteousness apart from works (David's Psalm)

# Abraham as the father of faith (Rom 4)

2) Was it credited to him as righteousness before or after circumcision? (4:9-12)

- It was before, and he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.
- Therefore, he is the father of all who believe: circumcised and uncircumcised.

# Abraham as the father of faith (Rom 4)

## 3) The promise was not received through the law (v4:13-15)

- It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise...but through the righteousness that comes by faith.
- For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless.

# Abraham as the father of faith (Rom 4)

Therefore, the promise comes by faith. So that is may be by grace, and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring.

- To those of the law
- And those that are of the faith of Abraham

He is the father of us all

- (4:23) “it was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”

# Romans 1-4: Alignment of Hope

- There is nothing you can do to attain righteousness of your own accord, Jew or Gentile, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- The only hope is the righteousness of God apart from the law, which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all that believe.