

# Only One Way to Righteousness

FAMILY THEME: The Cure for Sin      STUDY TEXT: Romans 3:10-31

October 14, 2018

Romans 3:10-18

**Recognize we are utterly lost without Christ.** “Being good” will not make us right with God. Being better than our neighbor is without merit. Being the most moral, best-behaved person living is insufficient. Scripture is clear: no one is righteous; we have all turned aside from God. We do not want to recognize it or admit it. We have nothing to argue in our defense. What can we point to in our lives without Christ that indicates we could ever live up to God’s perfect standard? Our own lives prove otherwise. **Discussion:**

- Why would Paul go to such lengths to point out that no one is righteous in God’s sight?
- Why is it impossible for anyone to meet God’s perfect standard?

Romans 3:19-20

**We cannot depend on our own efforts for right standing with God.** What can we do to right past wrongs? Will fasting remove past disobedience? Will substantial offerings undo previous dishonesty? Will singing hymns remove lust and hatred? Will driving by all the rules now undo in some way the horrific automobile accident that took innocent lives? With God’s Law, the time for obedience is before you break it. It does no good to keep it in every area except one (if that were even possible). Nothing we say or do can change what is done. **Discussion:**

- Why can current or future obedience not suffice for past disobedience?
- Why would God give us a Law He knows we cannot keep?
- How many of the 10 Commandments can you recite from memory?

Romans 3:21-31

**Humbly trust in and serve Christ, realizing He has redeemed us by His work on the cross.** We need not worry that God will somehow love us less if we “slip up.” When we were dead in sin, we did a lot more than slip up! Yet even then, God loved us enough to send Christ to be the offering for our sin. He loved us long before we gave any thought to slipping up. Knowing how much He loves us should free us to serve Him with a glad heart, without fear. Why would we not want to serve someone who has done so much for us? Why would we be fearful that He who loved us while we were still in sin would capriciously cast us aside now? **Discussion:**

- In what ways does the cross demonstrate that God loves us?
- How does God’s love for us in Christ motivate us to trust and serve Him?