

THE GOSPEL IS RESISTED

ROMANS 3:9-20 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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If I'm to walk in "the way of peace," I must admit my sinfulness but I am inclined to resist the obvious (3:9-12) being all-consumed by my own sin (3:13-18) and until I accept what God has revealed in his Word (3:19) I risk missing out on the salvation he offers (3:20)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

It is probably safe to conclude that we prefer to see ourselves as relatively good people. However, there is a problem inherent in that conclusion that keeps us from turning fully to Jesus. We do not embrace all he offers in Salvation because of self-righteousness. We can only claim goodness relative to other humans. When compared to Jesus, we all fall short of the glory of God! The Jewish believers claimed an advantage of goodness because they followed God's laws while the gentiles did not. As we lean into this study, begin by reviewing Romans 3:9-20 so it's fresh in your mind.

- Look at verse 13 and 14. What is being condemned as unworthy and ineffective in terms of accomplishing anything good? (*Throats, tongues, lips, mouth are related to how we _____ to one another.*)
- Why does Paul hold Jews accountable for the way they talk? (*Look up Matthew 12:34, Luke 6:45, Proverbs 10:11; Proverbs 21:2 to see the connection between your hearts and your words.*)
- Does God's word condemn any part of the way you speak to (or about) people?

- How might a person steeped in religious traditions demonstrate resistance to Jesus today. For instance, is refusal to interact with immoral people a form of resistance to the gospel or a wise approach to life? (*Asked another way, if you only welcome relationships with people who are saved, are you living fully into the power, grace, and mercy of the gospel?*)
- How are moral and immoral people similar when compared to God? (How does admitting these similarities reduce your spiritual pride and foster greater humility?)
- Is there a verse in this passage that can be taken to straight to the heart of your life? Are you willing to commit that verse to memory by repeating every day for a week?

This passage paints a startlingly disappointing reality of humanity. We are not nearly as good as we supposed. Thankfully, we are not nearly as awful as we can imagine. Paul wants to make sure we understand that there is no way to claim righteousness through observing part of the Mosaic Law. We'd have to follow everything perfectly and we cannot do that. Even when we try hard to be holy, we fail. No one, besides Jesus, can be declared righteous according to the Law. All it can do is help us know we need Jesus as our Saviour. If you have not turned to Jesus for salvation, you need to go to him. Stop trying to earn this gift by being good. Stop closing your ears to the gospel because you think you're too bad. If you need to develop your understanding of salvation, please start here: harvestbarrie.ca/5-gospel-words