

The Epicenter of Gospel Power (Romans 1: 16,17 & Rom 3:10-21)

- Romans 1:17 gives us the most important statement in the Bible for our salvation
- It was this statement of “justification by faith alone” that started the Reformation
- It was the heart of Martin Luther’s turning to the Bible and resting in Christ alone
- It is the very heart, the epicenter of the Gospel; without it, we have not the Gospel

I. God’s Reality: No One is Righteous

- Greatest threat to humanity is not disease or death but facing God’s judgment
- Jesus said even the most religious person is not righteous enough (Matt 5:20)
- Paul emphasized that in reality no one seeks for God or is righteous (Rom 3:12)
- David testifies we are born dead in sin (Ps 51:5), estranged from birth (58: 3)
- Paul tells us good news, there is a righteousness from God (Rom 1:17, 3:21)
- Before the good news, Paul explains to us that our condition is dire (1:18)
- No one escapes the righteous judgment of God: Gentile & Jew alike (1:18-3:20)

II. God’s Remedy: Righteousness from God

- In all literature a more condemning & grim picture of man can’t be found (3:1-10)
- But it makes a wonderful backdrop to the glorious hope found only in Jesus Christ
- 1) The righteousness of God is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ
- This righteousness from God comes to us through the Lord Jesus Christ
- 2) God offers this righteousness of Christ freely, apart from any need of works
- 3) Faith is the channel by which sinners receive Christ’s righteousness
- True saving faith is composed of three very important elements for salvation.
- a) It consists of knowledge: it is not just an attitude of mind: it consists of content
- b) A heart response to the Gospel. The Gospel touches our hearts & it moves us.
- c) It consists of commitment, commitment to Christ, to your personal Savior

III. God’s Requirement: Nothing in My Hands I Bring

- This was Paul’s experience, he was moral & righteous outwardly (Phil 3:4-6)
- When Christ saved Paul, all of his righteous attainments he counted as nothing
- Paul thought being right with God meant having more in the column of assets
- Since he had considerable assets he felt that he was very well off indeed
- When Paul saw Christ’s righteousness he realized his assets were actually deficits
- He forsook his righteousness and trusted Christ’s righteousness alone to save him