

***“Who Shall Stand?”***  
***Romans 3:19-23***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - I Would Like To Begin:
  - Buy Looking At Psalm 24:3:
    - Where We Find These Questions:
      - “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?”
  - Now - These Questions:
    - Don't Just Deal With:
      - The Hill & The Holy Place:
        - That You Would Have Found In The City Of Jerusalem:
          - During The Time Of King David!
  - No - They Also Deal With:
    - The Eternal Home Of God:
      - In Heaven Itself!
        - Heaven Has Always Stood Out:
          - As The Ideal Home!
    - Even Those Who Do Not Believe:
      - In God Or In The Bible:
        - ***Want*** To Believe:
          - That There Is A Heaven They Can Go To:
            - When They Die!
    - A Heaven:
      - Full Of Life & Light:
        - And Joy & Peace!
2. And So - The Questions In Psalm 24:
  - Are Also About:
    - Having God's Home As Your Own Home!
      - Who Shall Stand There:
        - In God's Holy Place?
      - Who Can Go There:
        - To Heaven - God's Home?
  - The Answer Is Given To Us:
    - In Psalm 24:4-5 - “He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. / He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation!”
  - This Answer:
    - Though True And Beautifully Stated:
      - Does Not Give Much Hope:
        - When God Opens Your Eyes:
          - To See Yourself The Way He Sees You!
  - The Way He Describes You In Romans 3:9-18:
    - Which Are The Verses We Looked At Last Sunday!
      - After All - Based On God's Assessment:
        - Who Among Us:
          - Has Clean Hands, Let Alone A Pure Heart?
        - Who Among Us:
          - Has Not Been Proud Or Deceitful?
3. If You Are Honest With Yourself:
  - The Question:
    - “Who Shall Stand In His Holy Place?”
      - Should Haunt You!
        - Because:
          - You ***Can't*** Stand There!
            - ***Noone*** Can!
  - Because - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
    - To The Book Of Romans:

- We Are Told - In Romans 3:10-12 - "There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. / They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one!"

4. So - "Who **Shall** Stand?"

- Who **Can** Stand?

- And - **How?**

- The First Way:

- We Attempt To Stand Before God:

- Is In & Through:

### 1. **The "Righteousness" Of Man!**

- Which Paul Deals With Next:

- In Romans 3:19-20 - Where He Writes:

- "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. / Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin!"

- Can You Stand Before God - And:

- Can You Stand In His Holy Place:

- In Your Own. So-Called, Righteousness?

- The Answer Given Here Is, Once Again, A Clear & Resounding:

- No!

- And The Reason Given:

- Is Because Of What We Know:

- About The Law Of God:

- Which Was Given To His People, The Children Of Israel, Through His Servant Moses, After He Rescued Them From Their Bondage In Egypt!

- Paul Says:

- "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law!"

- The Written Law Of God:

- Was Given:

- Not To The World In General, But To The Jews In Particular!

- And - Even Though It Was:

- A Great Privilege For The Jews:

- To Receive His Word & His Law:

- Yet - God Used It For A "Clinical Trial" Of Sorts!

- **IE:** Even Today - With This Virus - There Are Studies And Trials Going On - To See What Kinds Of Treatments Will Help Those Who Are Sick! They Don't Use An Experimental Treatment On Everyone! Only On A Few - To See What Works & What Doesn't Work!

- So - One Reason God Gave The Jews His Law:

- Was To Show & To Prove:

- To Everyone - Even To Us:

- That - Even In The Best Of Circumstances & With The Best Of Privileges:

- Men Are Still Sinners!

- And - Just Because You Have God's Law:

- Or - Just Because You Keep God's Law:

- To Some Degree Or Another:

- You Still Cannot Stand Before God In His Holy Hill! You Still Can't Go To Heaven When You Die!

- Instead - As We See In The Rest Of 3:19:

- God Uses His Law:

- To Silence All Of Our Arguments!

- 3:19b - "That Every Mouth May Be Stopped!"

- Today - People Argue With God All The Time!

- We Say - Look At Me:

- And What I Have Done!

- Or - Look At Them:

- And What They Have Not Done!
- But - On The Day:
  - When You Stand On Trial Before God As Your Judge:
    - What Will You Have To Say Then?
- Perhaps The Jew:
  - Will Argue:
    - You Gave Us Your Law!
      - God Will Answer - "But - What Did You Do With My Law?"
  - "There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!"
    - And Their Mouth:
      - Will Be Stopped!
- Or - Perhaps A Gentile:
  - Will Argue:
    - You *Didn't* Give Us Your Law!
      - God Will Answer - "But - What Did You Do With The Light You Were Given?"
  - "There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!"
    - And Their Mouth:
      - Will Be Stopped!
- Or - Perhaps Someone Who Professes To Be A Christian:
  - Will Argue:
    - We Didn't Need Your Law!
      - God Will Answer - "But - What Did You Do With The Love I Showed You?"
  - "There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!"
    - And Their Mouth:
      - Will Be Stopped!
- God Gave His Law:
  - To Shut Every Mouth - And:
    - To Silence All Of Our Arguments! Also:
- To Suspend All Of Our Appeals!
  - 3:19c - "And All The World May Become Guilty Before God!"
    - **IE:** In Our Court System - There Is An Appeals Process - For Those Who Believe That Justice Was Not Served! Some Have Even Made Their Appeals To The Supreme Court! This Is Necessary, Because We Live In An Imperfect World With In Imperfect System Because Of Imperfect People! Judges & Juries Do Get Things Wrong!
      - But This Is Not The Case With God! Genesis 18:25 - "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Abraham) Yes! Always!
- And The Law Of God:
  - Proves - As We Will See From 3:23 - That:
    - "All Have Sinned, And Come Short Of The Glory Of God!"
      - All Are Guilty!
  - Because - It Doesn't Matter:
    - What Others Think:
      - About You! Or:
    - What Your Family Things:
      - About You! Or:
    - Even - What You Think:
      - About Yourself!
  - What Matters Is:
    - What God Knows About You!
      - And You & I, Standing On Our Own, Are Guilty As Charged!
- God Gave His Law:
  - To Suspend All Of Our Appeals! Also:
- To Show All Of Our Accounts!
  - 3:20 - "Therefore By The Deeds Of The Law There Shall No Flesh Be Justified In His Sight!"
    - To Be "Justified" Means:
      - That You Can Stand Before God:
        - According To The Standards Of God!

- But - This Is Impossible:
  - “By The Deeds / Works Of The Law!”
  - Because - We Are All Guilty:
    - Of Breaking His Law In The First Place!
  - **IE:** When You Are In Debt Financially - For A House Or Car - You Are Given A Plan To Pay It Back! But - When It Comes To The Debt Of Sin - There Are No Take-Backs! There Is No Payment Plan! Your Account & Ledger Will Always Have A Liability On It - No Matter How “Good” You Try To Be!
- James Tells Us That:
  - “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all!” (James 2:10)
- And So:
  - Even Though Keeping God’s Law:
    - Is A Good & Right Thing To Do:
      - It Is Powerless:
        - To Right The Wrongs You’ve Already Done!
- If A Person Kills:
  - With Their Hands:
    - All The Life In The World:
      - Can Never Revive:
        - That Death!
- If You Lie:
  - With Your Words:
    - All The Truth In The World:
      - Can Never Correct:
        - That Lie!
- And - God Gave His Law:
  - To Show All Of Our Accounts!
    - And We Are Still Woefully In Debt:
      - With Our Sin! But - Also:
- To Stimulate All Of Our Awareness!
  - 3:20b - “For By The Law Is The Knowledge Of Sin!”
    - This Is Why God Gave The Jews His Law - Written On Tablets Of Stone!
      - It Was Meant To Reveal Sin:
        - Not - To Rectify Sin!
  - **IE:** When I Was A Boy - Given A Metal Detector As A Present - Thought I Would Find All Sorts Of Coins - Silver - Even Gold! What I Found - Was A Lot Of Other Metal - Junk! Nothing Wrong With The Detector, Though! It Was A Metal Detector - Not A Coin / Silver / Gold Detector! So It Is With God’s Law!
    - It Is A Good & Accurate Sin Detector!
- It Detects:
  - Sins Of Commission:
    - And Sins Of Omission!
  - Outward - Public Sins:
    - And Inward - Private Sins!
  - What I Say & Do:
    - As Well As - Who / What I Am!
- The Law Of God:
  - Is A Good Sin Detector!
    - But - It Was Never Designed To Be:
      - A Sin Doctor!
- And So - Paul Once Again Proves:
  - That - We **Still** Can’t Stand:
    - Before God - In His Holy Place!
      - In Heaven Itself!
        - Because - None Of Us Possesses Any True Righteousness!
    - 3:10 - “There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!”
- So The Question Remains?

- **“Who Shall Stand?”**
  - Who *Can* Stand?
- Well - Starting:
  - With These Two Words In 3:21:
    - **“But Now”** - Paul Reveals:
      - The Good News:
        - In Contrast To The Bad News - Of Our Sin!
      - The Hope Of The Gospel:
        - Instead Of The Hopelessness Of The Law!
  - **“But Now”** - At This Time:
    - 3:21-22 - “The righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; / Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe!”
  - So - What Is The Answer:
    - To The Question:
      - “Who Shall Stand?”
        - Is The One Who Possesses:

## 2. ***The Righteousness Of God!***

- Here - Paul Picks Up On The Thought:
  - That He Began - All The Way Back:
    - In 1:17 - “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith!”
  - You See - The Only Way For You:
    - To Have A Right Relationship With & A Right Standing Before God - Is Through:
      - A Righteousness That Is:
        - Not Your Own!
      - And - A Righteousness That Is:
        - “Without” & Completely Separate From The Law!
    - Your Only Hope Is:
      - The True Righteousness:
        - Of God Himself!
          - But - How Does This Come About?
      - Well - In 3:21 - We Can See:
    - The Presentation Of True Righteousness!
      - 3:21a - “But Now, The Righteousness Of God Without The Law Is – Or – Has Already Been – Perfect Passive Verb – Made Manifest” – And Brought Into View!
        - You See - With The Coming Of Jesus Christ:
          - Into This World - A New Age:
            - Was Inaugurated!
              - The Gospel Age!
            - **IE:** Just Like - Every Four Years - A New President Can Be Inaugurated - And A New Administration Is Established - This Is What The Coming Of Christ Began!
              - His Birth - His Life - His Death, Burial & Resurrection - Was The “New Wine” That Was Put Into “New Wineskins” That Jesus Talked About!
          - In Mark 1:15 - Jesus Even Said:
            - “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel!”
        - But - Even Though:
          - Jesus Himself:
            - Kept & Fulfilled:
              - The Righteousness Of The Law:
                - In Its Entirety!
            - He Also Possessed:
              - Within Himself - In His Own Nature:
                - A “Righteousness . . . Without / Apart From The Law!”
            - He Possessed:
              - An Inherent Righteousness:

- As The Divine Son Of God!
  - The Only Righteousness That Qualifies Someone:
    - To “Stand In [The] Holy Place Of God!”
- And So - The Righteousness You & I Need:
  - Is The Righteousness:
    - Of Christ Himself!
      - Not Just - The Righteousness:
        - He Did!
      - But - The Righteousness:
        - He Is!
    - You Need:
      - Christ Himself:
        - To Be Your Righteousness:
          - For You To Have Any Hope To Stand Before God!
  - And - Praise God:
    - This Is What Jesus Christ:
      - Came To Be! In 1 Corinthians 1:30 - Paul Says To Christians - “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, **and righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption!”
        - And - In The Rest Of 3:21 - We Can Even See:
  - The Proof Of True Righteousness:
    - 3:21b - “Being Witnessed By The Law And The Prophets!”
      - The Old Testament Scriptures:
        - Are Full Of References:
          - That Point To The Righteous Character Of Christ:
            - As The Only Hope For Sinners!
      - In Isaiah 11:1-5 - We Are Told That:
        - “There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: / And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins!”
      - In Jeremiah 23:5-6 - We Are Told That:
        - “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. / In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!”
      - This Is Jesus!
        - And - In Addition To Those References:
          - So Many Of The Pertinent Questions:
            - About This Righteous Messiah:
              - Are Also Revealed To Us In God’s Word!
      - Like - Who:
        - Will This Person Be?
          - Jeremiah 23:6 - He Is The “Lord!” - Yahweh - Jehovah Himself!
      - And - When:
        - Will This Person Come?
          - Daniel 9:25 - “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks!”
      - Even - Where:
        - Will This Person Be From?
          - Micah 5:2 - “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting!”
      - And Even - What:
        - Will This Person Do?
          - Isaiah 53:4-5 - “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. / But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed!”



- But The Gospel Is Also:
  - A Comprehensive:
    - Declaration!
      - The Righteousness Of Jesus Christ Also Comes “*Upon* All Them That Believe!”
  - This Does Not Mean:
    - That You *Become*:
      - Righteous - At Least Not Yet!
  - But - It Does Mean:
    - That You Are *Declared*:
      - Righteous - You Are Justified:
        - Because - God The Father Now Sees You - As You Are United With His Son, Jesus Christ!
- By Faith:
  - You Are Connected To:
    - Christ And His Righteousness!

### Conclusion:

1. And Why Did God:
  - Make This Comprehensive Offer?
    - Because - As We Are Told:
      - In The Last Part Of 3:22 & 3:23 - “For There Is No Difference! For All Have Sinned, And Come Short Of The Glory Of God!”
  - The Word Translated:
    - “Difference” - In 3:22:
      - Is An Interesting Word:
        - Because - It Is Also Used To Describe:
          - The Difference In Sounds:
            - That You Hear Played On A Musical Instrument !
  - But - Here:
    - When It Comes To:
      - People - All People:
        - Whether Jew Or Gentile!
        - Whether Male Or Female!
        - Whether Young Or Old!
        - Regardless Of Any External & Superficial Distinction!
2. When It Comes Down To What Really Matters:
  - There Is No Difference:
    - Between Us At All!
      - We Are All Playing The Same Tune!
      - Maybe In A Different Key Or Octave!
  - And The Song We Are Playing:
    - Is A Dirge!
      - A Funeral Song:
        - Because Our Sin!
    - The Sins Of Our Past!
      - Because - We’ve “All Sinned!”
        - As Well As:
    - The Sins Of Our Present!
      - Still Coming Up Short:
        - Of The “Glory Of God” That People Once Experienced In The Garden Of Eden!
    - We Are All The Same – Sinners!
      - And So God Offers:
        - The Same Solution:
          - To Us All!
3. So - How Will *You* Stand:
  - Before God:
    - In His Holy Place?

- Remember - There Is Coming A Day:
    - When You **Will** Stand Before God:
      - As Your Judge!
  - Hebrews 9:27 Tells Us:
    - “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment!”
  - Will You Rely Upon:
    - Your Own Attempts:
      - At Righteousness:
        - To Justify You Before God?
          - Remember - Titus 3:5 - It Is “Not By Works Of Righteousness Which We Have Done, But According To His Mercy He [Saves] Us!”
  - Or - Will You Rest In:
    - The Righteousness Of God:
      - 3:22 - “Which Is By Faith Of Jesus Christ!”
4. Because:
- Only In Jesus Christ
    - And His Righteousness:
      - Can You Stand:
        - In The Holy Place Of God:
          - With “Clean Hands” & A “Pure Heart!” (Psalm 24:4) And “Receive The Blessing From The LORD!”
- \* Have You Responded To The Offer Of Salvation By Believing In Jesus?
- \* If You Have **Not** Responded By Faith:
- **Why** Are You Relying On The Righteousness Of Man? Your Own?
    - It’s Not Enough & Will Never Be Enough!
- \* If You **Have** Responded By Faith:
- Are You Now Resting In The Righteousness Of God?
    - Because The Righteousness Of Christ:
      - Is & Will Always Be:
        - Enough!
      - For You & For Everyone:
        - Who Believes!

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