

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:17 The Apocalypse of God's Righteousness

When you gospelize you reveal God's just and merciful righteousness in justifying sinners because of His covenant faithfulness. How does the gospel reveal the righteousness of God?

1) The gospel reveals God as Righteous Lawgiver and Judge of humanity.

- a) Divine Lawgiver:
 - i) 1:32 "God's righteous decree (law)"
 - ii) 7:12, 14 "the law is holy, the commandment is holy, righteous and good. . . spiritual."
- b) Divine Judge:
 - i) 2:5 "on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed"
 - ii) 2:13 ". . . before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified."
 - iii) 2:16 "that day when . . . God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus."
 - iv) 3:3-6 "Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true through every man were a liar . . . what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? . . . By no means! For then how could God judge the world?"
 - v) 3:19 "the whole world may be held accountable to God."
 - vi) 9:28 "for the Lord will carry out His sentence upon the earth fully and without delay."
- c) **Application:** Your proclamation of the gospel must point men to the justice of God, the seriousness of sin, and the consequence of condemnation.

2) The gospel reveals God as Righteous Lord of covenant people.

- a) Divine Covenantal Faithfulness:
 - i) 3:3 "What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means!"
 - ii) 9:6 "But it is not as though the Word of God has failed."
 - iii) 11:1-2 "God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew."
 - iv) 11:29 "For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable."
- b) Divine Covenantal Grace:
 - i) 4:13, 16 "through the righteousness of faith. . . . That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace"
 - ii) 9:13-16 " 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.'"
- c) **Application:** Your proclamation of the gospel must assure the saints of God's grace and faithfulness.

3) The gospel reveals God as Righteous Justifier of the ungodly.

- a) Divine Satisfaction of God's Righteousness:
 - i) 3:20-26 "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. . . . justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood . . .

- to show the righteousness of God . . . to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”
- ii) Propitiation is the means of assuaging righteous indignation by satisfying all the demands of righteous judgment of the Righteous Judge.
 - iii) 8:3-4 “By sending His own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us”
- b) Divine Imputation of God’s Righteousness:
- i) 4:4-8 “And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is imputed as righteousness, just as David speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not impute his sin.’”
 - ii) 5:18-21 “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - iii) 10:4 “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
- c) **Application:** Your proclamation of the gospel must reveal Christ as the only propitiation for sinners and all our Righteousness.

4) The gospel reveals God as Righteous Master of the justified.

- a) 6:13 “present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”
- b) 6:16-22 “you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness . . . you have become slaves of righteousness. . . . you have become slaves of God”
- c) **Application:** Your proclamation of the gospel must promise transformation from unrighteousness to righteousness, from disobedience to obedience, from sin to holiness in Christ, just as it promises translation from death to life in Christ.

Doxology: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness. Psalm 96:11-13