

**QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
& SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
FOR FEBRUARY 5 THRU 11, 2023**

—Here are some quotations that are intended to provoke some initial discussion about what’s being presented in this study.

—“There are only two options available for salvation: either by the law or by grace. If salvation is to come through the law, complete and total perfect obedience is necessary. There can be no flaws or shortcomings, for the law can’t ever show mercy because it’s God’s measuring stick. It knows nothing about grace or forgiveness. It demands perfection, because whoever fails to obediently follow in one tiny detail violates the God’s entire law. It’s absolutely essential for a person to know exactly everything the law requires if we think we are going to be in a valid and legal relationship with God by keeping His Law.” —**GAD**

—“Human self-righteousness denies the need for the saving, enabling grace of Christ. Human righteousness embraces the cruelest of Satan’s lies, that a person can be righteous by keeping the Law. If that were true, there would be no need for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ.” —**Paul David Tripp**

—“In his letter to the Romans, Paul teaches that we have been made for fellowship with God, but sin has separated us from Him. We cannot save ourselves from the deadly grip of sin, but God’s grace in Christ bridges the chasm between God’s holiness and our sin. Now through faith in Christ, we can be put in a right relationship with God and be forgiven of our sins.”

—an anonymous quote from Biblestudytools.com

—“We will never be clothed with the righteousness of Christ except we first know assuredly that we have no righteousness of our own.”

—**John Calvin**

— “The greatest enemy of our human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men (people) look to themselves for salvation.”

—**Charles Spurgeon**

—“The Gospel reveals to us that we are fundamentally flawed by our sin nature. It also gives us genuine hope and encouragement in the reality that God and God alone can fix this problem!” —**GAD**

—“Whenever you choose to resist or reject God’s guidance, or to fight against His instructions, it’s always a losing proposition. Eventually you’ll be sorry that was your choice.” —**Adapted from Steve Cole**

—God’s laws, instructions, commands, and guidelines will never save us from sin’s penalties, but ignoring them will acquaint us with the seriousness of our sins. —a quote from Bible.org

—**When we’re studying a passage of God’s Word that’s as powerful as Romans 3, it’s very beneficial to carefully read and observe the details of what we’re studying. With this, please carefully read and observe Romans 3:9–31 in your personal Bible pick out the key words and main ideas being presented and write them down below.**

Main ideas and key words

—**Romans 3:1–8**

Please notice the rhetorical questions Paul poses in these verses. For help on this look at the questions about this on the next page.

—**Romans 3:9–18**

—**Romans 3:19–20**

—**Romans 3:21–26**

—Romans 3:27–30

—Romans 3:31

—After carefully observing Romans 3, what are some personal thoughts that come to your mind about:

—how serious God is about the problem of sin?

—how important it is to understand God’s Word?

—the impact & influence sin has over our lives?

—the purpose God had in giving the Law?

—why Jesus had to die on the cross to pay for our penalty from sin?

—why self-righteousness is a problem?

—how amazing God’s grace actually is?

—what the Lord Jesus experienced when He died for us?

—In this passage, Paul asks some provocative questions that might be difficult to understand for us because we don’t face all the same cultural concerns as the original readers of Romans. These questions are re-phrased below. Please try to answer them and discuss them with someone else if possible.

- 1} If both Jews & Gentiles are guilty before God, in comparison to the Gentiles, what **advantages** did the Jewish people have?
- 2} Did the **unbelief & unfaithfulness** of the Jewish people cause God to **nullify His promises**?
- 3} If **people’s sin & unrighteousness** help to **highlight God’s grace** and **lead to His glory**, why does God have **the right to judge sin**?
- 4} If **God is glorified when He shows grace to sinners**, would God receive more glory if people sinned more?

5} Is there anyone who can be **good enough to please God**?

Are there any **good sinners**!

6} What can people do to **please God enough to be forgiven**? Is this even possible?

7} Can anyone **boast about being forgiven**?

8} Since people are saved by trusting, **what value is God’s Law**?

—Here are some additional questions related to the sermon notes and life lessons from this study that might promote or provoke discussion:

- 1} What’s the relationship between the righteousness of God and His justice system?
 - Why is God’s justice against sin essential/necessary?
 - How does God’s Law expose sin?
 - Why is it impossible for the Law to save us from our sin?
 - How was God’s righteousness is demonstrated by Jesus’ sacrifice?
- 2— Discuss the idea that God’s only requirement for forgiveness from sin is total trust in Him.
 - How would you define total trust to someone who has never placed faith in Christ?
 - Why is it important for God to gets ALL the glory for salvation?
- 3— How would you explain justification to a non-believer?
 - Jesus is our propitiation! That means His blood sacrifice is what satisfied God’s righteous wrath against us because of sin. What does 1 John 2:1–2 teach us about this truth?
- 4— If someone would ask you, “Is it fair for God to punish sincere, relatively good people who have never trusted in Christ?” How would you answer this question/