

THE BEST NEWS: YOU CAN BE SURE OF HEAVEN

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

WORSHIP

Same Jesus, King Jesus, A
Thousand Hallelujahs, Build
My Life, Jesus Paid It All

WELCOME

Have you ever read how
heaven is described in the
Bible? If yes, what would you
consider to be the Bible's
best description of heaven?
If not, where did you get your
idea of what heaven is like?

WORD

ROMANS 3:23-28

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Romans chapters 1-3 cover the Good News, the Bad News, and how we are All Guilty. Now the book of Romans has 16 chapters that show a systemic view of theology. As we continue our study, we ask the question, What's The Real Solution? We also want to share **THE BEST NEWS: You Can Be Sure of Heaven**.

We all want to go to heaven, but many people are not sure if they could. This is because we do not understand the doctrine of salvation well enough. We are free to believe what we want, but we can never choose the consequences we will face in eternity for these choices. We lose nothing if heaven or hell are not real—which means we can live however we want. But if we die and what the Bible says about heaven and hell is true, we are going to lose everything for eternity! Heaven is a consequence of a choice, and that is, to choose Jesus!

To be sure of heaven, we must remember A-B-C:

1. ADMIT

It starts with a posture of humility – admit our guilt before God. **Romans 3:9** puts all of us in the same level of guilt– we have all sinned. From v.10 onwards, Paul quotes Old Testament truths (**Ecclesiastes 7:20, Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 57:1-3, Psalm 5:9, Psalm 140:3**), like stringing pearls, Paul puts it all together to show how we all fell from the standards of God.

Quoting the Psalms and Prophets again, Paul shows in **verses 13-18** how we sin with our bodies. We don't give God honor, we don't respect Him, we don't love Him. This is something we must all admit, that we are all guilty of sin.

2. BELIEVE

What do we need to believe? **Romans 3:19-20** corrects a common misconception. It tells us that no matter how good we are in following the Law (doing good, being moral), obedience to the Law cannot save us. In fact, he Law condemn us – makes us aware and see how HOLY God is and how far we have fallen from His standards. No one is justified or considered righteous by the Law. **Verses 21-22** tells us, with a transitional word BUT, that the righteousness of God is revealed apart from the Law – a kind of righteousness that is different from just following the Law; **righteousness that comes through FAITH IN JESUS**.

Romans talks about righteousness a lot; here we see that it comes through faith in Jesus. So what must we believe in? ONLY JESUS! Our biggest problem is that ALL HAVE SINNED (**Roman 3:23**) and the only solution we have is Jesus. How does this happen? Let's study the following words:

• JUSTIFIED/JUSTIFICATION

This has the same root word as "righteousness". More than forgiveness, justification (**Gk. dikaiōo**) is God Himself declaring us righteous as if we have not committed anything wrong. If we have Jesus, we are declared RIGHTEOUS and

THE BEST NEWS: YOU CAN BE SURE OF HEAVEN

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

WORD

JUSTIFIED! Through Jesus Christ, our records are made clean and spotless! Christ's righteousness is imputed (credited) on us while our sins were placed upon Jesus on the cross (**2 Corinthians 5:21**) where He carried all of our sins and exchanged it for His righteousness.

• REDEMPTION

This is a Greek term (apolutrosis) that shows that we are redeemed and paid for. The same word also captures the setting free of slaves! We are set free by Christ indeed (**Colossians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). We are set free from under the bondage of sin we were bought at a price – Christ's death on the cross. Therefore, we must glorify God in our bodies!

• PROPITIATION

Propitiation means "averting the wrath of God by the offering of a gift" – when Jesus died on the cross, he absorbed the wrath of God intended for us. The judgment for our sin was not given to us but placed on Jesus instead. He was the only worthy sacrifice. Justice has to be served against our sins. Jesus is the only way, because only He is fit to be an unblemished sacrifice acceptable to a holy God. Propitiation took place when Jesus died on the cross, where He took the full penalty of God's judgment for our sins. And because of that, WE ARE SET FREE.

1 John 4:10 reminds us of this great love of God for us: He sent His Son "to be the propitiation for our sins". We need to always remember that our salvation is free, but it is NOT CHEAP. Somebody paid for it through His life – Jesus Christ. On the cross, we see both God's justice carried out on Jesus and mercy given to us.

Romans 3:25 tells us that we can avail of this mercy, the forgiveness of our sins, by putting our faith in Jesus. **Verse 26** tells us that because of Christ's death on the cross, God is shown as RIGHTEOUS /JUST because the justice that He passed over before the time of Christ met its fulfillment on the cross; and this also makes Him a valid JUSTIFIER of those who put their faith in Jesus.

3. COMMIT

If we trust in Jesus, He promises an assurance of heaven that we will forever be grateful for. Just like the sinner crucified beside Jesus who trusted in Him as Savior and Lord, we too have access to heaven. **Romans 3:27-28** tells us there is no way to boast about salvation, because it is obtained only through the law of FAITH – men and women are justified not because of obedience to the Law, but because of faith in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Do we do away with the Law? Paul proclaims "NO!" – because once we are saved, we are given the motivation to obey God's laws. Our FAITH should be able to produce the kind of obedience that reflects this transformative gift given to us. Faith must be placed on Jesus ALONE, and our lives must reflect that He is indeed our Savior and Lord by following His commands and living life for His glory and praise!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Which part of this message was most meaningful to you, and why?

2. Setting It Right.

How can you be sure of your salvation?

3. Living It Out.

Whom do you know that needs to hear this great news, and what will you do about it?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for family and friends, that God will cause them to be curious about Christ because of your testimony. Look for opportunities to share the gospel as you live it out among those around you. Encourage family and friends to join you in attending Sunday service or invite them to study the Book of Romans together with you as a way to share the gospel to them.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines and Canada.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared.
- God's intervention to restore peace and order in countries going through economic and political turmoil (Sri Lanka, etc.).

III. Church

- That CCFE Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCFE Facilities

- Worship and Training Center

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 3:28

¹⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.