

SUNDAY - September 6, 2026

UNASHAMED - Romans 3:1-4 - Oracles of God

SERMON SUMMARY:

Romans 3:1–4 confronts the idea that religious rituals, moral effort, or simply possessing God's law can make someone righteous. The law was never meant to be a ladder we climb to reach God. It is a schoolmaster that exposes our sin and leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Even the great biblical figures like David, Abraham, Moses, Jonah, and others reveal human weakness and failure, showing that our hope cannot rest in our own goodness. Scripture is ultimately not a self-help manual about us; it is the story of God's character, glory, grace, and redemption.

When God's glory becomes the center, it changes how we view everything: marriage, parenting, work, ministry, and worship. The Bible's larger story moves from Creation → Fall → Redemption → Consummation, with Christ at the center of it all. Instead of asking, "How can I get God to bless my plans?" we begin asking, "How can my life glorify Him?" True joy becomes the fruit of fixing our eyes on Christ rather than chasing happiness, success, or religious performance.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 3:1-4, 1:16-17, Deut 7:7-9a, Ps 23:1-3, 106:8, Ezek 20d:9, 22, 44, Isa 48:9, Jer 20:7, Gal 3:24, 1 Cor 10:31

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to Romans 3:3-4, what is the relationship between human unfaithfulness and God's faithfulness?
2. What repeated phrase in Ezekiel 20 and Isaiah 48 reveals God's primary motivation for acting in mercy toward His people?
3. What is the stated purpose of the law according to Galatians 3:24?
4. What is the ultimate goal of every human activity, as stated in 1 Corinthians 10:31?
5. If the law's purpose is to lead us to Christ and not to make us morally self-sufficient, how does that change the way a person reads the stories of flawed biblical heroes like David or Abraham?
6. The sermon argued that reading the Bible as a manual for personal success feeds narcissism. Why would a self-centered approach to Scripture ultimately lead to spiritual emptiness and anger?
7. How does orienting marriage, work, and parenting toward the glory of God provide a different foundation for these callings than orienting them toward personal fulfillment?
8. What does it look like practically for a person to "fix their eyes on Jesus" as their true north, rather than on their own moral performance or feelings?
9. When you read the Bible this week, what is one practical way you can check if you are reading it to learn about God and for His glory, or reading it primarily for personal advice and fulfillment?
10. Is there a specific area of your life (e.g., a relationship, your work, a personal habit) where you have been striving to be your own savior through moral effort? What would it look like to shift your focus from your performance to Christ's finished work in that area?
11. Think about your most mundane task this week. How could you do that specific task "heartily, as for the Lord" and not for people or personal gain?
12. Our culture often tells parents that their children's happiness is the ultimate goal. How would parenting change if the primary goal was to display God's glory? What is one small step you could take in that direction?
13. The sermon described the exhaustion of trying to "look the part" of a good Christian. If you feel that exhaustion, what is one thing you can stop doing this week that is based on performance rather than resting in grace?
14. Identify one distraction that consistently pulls your focus away from Jesus as your true north. What is one tangible action you can take to minimize that distraction's influence?