

SUNDAY - September 27, 2026

UNASHAMED - Romans 3:21-26 - God's Righteousness

SERMON SUMMARY:

Romans 3:21–26 teaches that we cannot overcome sin through effort or religious obedience. All have sinned, so everyone stands on level ground before God. The Law and the Prophets pointed to what we needed all along: God to change our hearts and give us His righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

At the cross, Jesus frees us from sin and death and deals with God's just anger toward evil. God does not ignore our guilt; He bears its cost Himself. He remains just while declaring sinners righteous through Jesus, then graciously welcomes us to His table and into His life.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 3:21-26, Deuteronomy 30, 6:4, Zephaniah 3, John 6:28, Exodus 6:6, 7:5, Colossians 1:13-14, Galatians 3:13, 6:14-15, Romans chapter 5 + 6, Nehemiah 9:31, Lamentations 3:22, James 1, Revelation 22:17

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to Romans 3:21-22, where does righteousness come from, and how is it received?
2. What two key actions of God, described in Romans 3:24-25, accomplish our salvation?
3. The sermon mentioned that the Law and the Prophets testify to this righteousness from God. What did Deuteronomy 30:6 and Zephaniah 3:17 say God Himself would do for His people?
4. What is the universal condition described in Romans 3:23 that makes this righteousness necessary for everyone?
5. Why is it significant that our righteousness comes from God rather than from our own obedience to the Law? What does this reveal about both God's character and human capability?
6. The idea of God's wrath can be difficult. Why is His wrath against sin not an irrational or unjust emotion, but a necessary part of His righteousness and love for His creation?
7. How does the concept of God being both "just and the justifier" resolve the tension between His requirement for justice and His desire to show mercy to guilty people?
8. The sermon described the gospel as "bad news for good people and good news for bad people." What does this mean, and how does it create a level ground at the cross for everyone?
9. In what areas of life are you most tempted to trust in your own sincerity or effort instead of resting in the righteousness that God provides through Christ?
10. The truth that all have sinned removes any grounds for feeling morally superior to others. Is there a person or group of people you secretly view as "worse sinners" than yourself? How does the cross challenge that perspective?
11. Because Jesus absorbed God's wrath, we now have peace with God. Do you live with a sense that God is still angry with you, or do you truly embrace the peace that was purchased at the cross? What would it look like to live in that peace this week?
12. God's redemption means He delivers us from enslaving powers. From what specific area of struggle (a dark thought pattern, a sinful habit, a lie you believe) do you need to cry out for His delivering power this week?
13. Communion was described as an invitation for those who don't deserve it. How does remembering your own unworthiness make you more grateful for God's gracious invitation to fellowship with Him?

14. The unity found at the cross brings together people who could never reconcile on their own. Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond repair? How can the truth of the gospel provide hope for that situation?