

Bible Study 1 - Freed to serve God - Romans 3:9-26

PART 1 Background

In about AD 56, Paul wrote the letter of Romans to Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome. Its theme is the gospel (see 1:1, 9, 15, 16). He describes the need for the gospel:

- Gentiles (1:18-32)
- Jews (2:1-3:8)
- Everyone (3:9-20). So our passage summarises what goes before it.

Then he describes the gospel as being our justification:

- Through Christ (3:21-26)
- By faith (3:27-31)

1. Why did the Gentiles need the gospel?

Romans 1:19-23

2. Why did the Jews need the gospel?

Romans 2:21-24

Read Romans 3, noting: we are all sinners (v.9-18); the law shows our sinfulness (v.19-20); the gospel is God's solution to our sinfulness (v.21-26).

Note the following definitions:

- *Gospel*: Our sin was exchanged for God's righteousness. Believers are regarded as righteous as Christ
- *Justification* – Believers are viewed as if they had never sinned
- *Redemption* (a metaphor) – release or freedom on payment of a ransom
- *Atonement* – reconciliation between God & people (OT – sacrifices; NT – Jesus our sacrifice)

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage about God's acceptance of us

3. What I learnt about God the Father, Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit.

4. Summarise the key verse(s)

5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?

6. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

7. What personal applications can you make to your life?

In our relationship with each other?

In our relationship with God?

