

# Leader's Guide

LESSON 5

Dr. Jerry Nelson

*In response to the sermon on October 7th*

## **Romans 3:20-28** **The Good News**

**Key Points:** Up until now, we have understood the depth of our sin, the universality of it, and the need for atonement; the bad news. The Apostle Paul now turns his attention on God; who he is and what he has done. In this passage we will discover:

- God's righteousness
- Our sin
- Redemption through Christ
- Grace
- God's justice

The sum of the gospel is described in these verses. Put succinctly, we understand the depth of God's love for us, the depth of our sin, God's kindness and generosity in the grace He bestows upon us, the purpose of Christ's death and resurrection, and our response in faith.

For many believers, these are known facts. Our challenge is to help them discover how these important truths have made a difference in their lives. How does knowledge produce life transformation? These truths should impact our lives in tremendous ways, both positionally (in our standing with God) and experientially (in our continuing love and response to Him).

### **Personal Reflection:**

- What are some of the most strategic concepts from this chapter that you want to discuss?
- What is the best way to communicate them?
- Is there anything that you don't understand or wrestle with personally? (Please feel free to contact Jerry Nelson by e-mail or phone.)

## Discussion Questions:

1. What should be the role of the “Law” in the life of the unbeliever?
2. What should be the role of the Law in one who is already a believer? (See “The Law of God in the Life of the Christian” and “The Beauty of God in the Beauty of the Law” at SoundLiving [www.sgc.org/resources/sermons\\_exodus.asp](http://www.sgc.org/resources/sermons_exodus.asp))
3. From verses 23 and 24, what is the “righteousness of God” that “has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify,” and that “comes through faith in Jesus Christ?” What is now the believer’s relationship with God because of the “righteousness of God?” (“justified,” “redeemed”) What are some of the implications of this new relationship?
4. How can God remain “just” and at the same time “justify” the sinner? What did Christ accomplish on the cross? What does “sacrifice of atonement” (NASB “propitiation”) mean for us? Was Christ a model of self-sacrificing love or was he an actual sacrifice given to achieve peace with God?
5. What is your response to the following statement: “Paul uses the word grace to stress that all God does on our behalf is done freely and without compulsion. It is God’s very nature to be free from any outside “requirements” about how he acts. Nothing we can do requires him to put us right with himself. We receive what he does as a pure gift.”<sup>2</sup>
6. There are several characteristics of God that are prominent in this passage. What do you discover about God in vs. 24? *His kindness, generosity, willingness to forgive, etc.* What do you discover about God in Vs. 25-26? *His patience, provision, and justice*
7. As you think about these characteristics of God, as he reveals himself, there is a knowledge response (what we know to be true) and a heart response (how it effects our lives). In what ways does the revelation of God’s character change our motives and actions?
8. We know that, by faith, we are justified through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Practically speaking, what changes in attitudes and/or behavior has this brought about for you personally?
9. What is the good news? What makes it good? Why don’t we take more time and attention to share this good news with others? God?

10. “The good news becomes old hat, and we lose the sense of wonder and awe we first had when we understood that God had adopted us into his family. Why is this? There are many reasons, but Paul touches on two of them in these chapters: We fail to remember who we are, and we fail to remember who God is.”<sup>3</sup> Recap these points: Who are we? Who is God?

**Prayer Focus:** you might want to end your study with confession of why or how we forget who we are, and affirmation/praise statements of who God is.

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<sup>1</sup> NIV Application Commentary pg. 127

<sup>2</sup> NIV Application Commentary pg. 128

<sup>3</sup> NIV Application Commentary pg. 135