

5. How are God's love and his wrath against sin connected?

6. The wrath of God (i.e., his judgment and condemnation) may strike terror in us or rebellion against such an idea. But how does what God do in Christ lead us to trust him and love him?

7. In anticipation of next week's sermon on this same passage, where are some of the places where you see the law and the prophets pointing to our redemption in Christ?

**The Gospel Journey Back to God
(A Series on Romans 1-4)**

"The Story of Why Jesus Had to Die"

Romans 3:9-26

Jesus died to make us right with God because of God's justice and his gracious _____.

Romans 1-4 tells the story of God's justice and his gracious love demonstrated in the death of Jesus on the cross. It's a story that explains why the gospel (God's rescue story) and faith are _____.

The Story of Why Jesus had to Die

The cross and resurrection are two sides of the same coin.

1. Humanity (including you and me) has proved unwilling and incapable of living rightly and of being right with God, others, and _____. (Romans 1:18 - 3:20)

2. So God promised to rescue humanity through one man and his descendants, but they failed to live rightly and be right with God, others, and _____. (Romans 3:9-18)

Genesis 12: ¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

There is nothing we do that is not _____ by sin. (Romans 3:9-18)

3. God, in his rightness/righteousness, is just, and therefore he hates humanity's unrighteousness and brings _____ down on us.

4. So, how can God keep his promise of redeeming humanity and making us right without violating his own rightness and _____? (Romans 3:25-26)

What God did made it possible for him to keep his promise to rescue humanity without violating his perfect _____.

Would you _____ a God who is neither right, nor good, nor just?

God didn't make us to simply do what he says to do; he made us to _____ him and do what he says out of that _____. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

5. The cross is God's answer and was his plan all _____.

"But now"

"There are no more wonderful words in the whole of Scripture than just these two words 'But now.'" (Martin Lloyd-Jones)

The Bible pointed to Jesus Christ, to how we can be made right through the redemption Christ made possible by his _____ death on the cross. (Romans 3:22-25; Mark 10:45; John 5:39-40; Matthew 26:27-28; Luke 24:25-27)

The Bible always pointed to...

- Justification by God's grace ("justified freely by his grace")
- Redemption in Christ ("the redemption that came by Christ Jesus")
- Substitutionary atonement through the _____ death of Christ ("God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood")

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Set aside biblical conviction if you can on this question. Do you instinctively look at humanity and think, "What a mess," or "What incredible beauty"? It's both, of course, but to which side do you lean?

3. Read Romans 3:9-20. What is Paul's main point?

4. Read Romans 3:21-26. We'll look at redemption, justification, and atonement in more detail next week. Instead, for this week, focus on how Paul makes the case for what he says in v. 26. How does he make that case?