

Romans 3A Listening Guide

1. If you don't agree that you are unrighteous, then the offer of righteousness is an offer you can refuse.

2. But if you believe and agree that you are unrighteous and have no hope to save yourself, then the whole issue of righteousness being manifested becomes not only important but _____.

3. **To believers** - Man left to himself is only _____ and if you are to be found righteous it is only because _____ righteousness is being manifested in you. You apart from God are still _____% bad.

4. We now have a problem that God is prepared to solve for us and now we get to understand how He does it.

Gospel

5. How is it that God being _____ can let me get into heaven even though I'm not?

6, New Topic – How we obtain righteousness.

Vs. 9 – Psalms 14 and 53.

7. Paul includes these verses so that his audience understands that he's not making this up as he goes along. Scripture itself _____ that man's history, his nature, and his future is one of _____ and heedlessness.

8. No hope to _____ God and no hope to _____ Him.

9. Men have and always will _____ from God.

Righteousness

Vs. 19

10. We all have a _____ that none of us can _____. Now what?

11. How you do **not** get righteousness.

12. Law (generally, not only the Mosaic law) verses Grace.

13. Its purpose or reach is limited to those who are _____ it.

14. Law by its nature is a set of _____ that drives _____.

15. It has a _____ reach, and a limited _____.

16. God has here in His view of _____ a _____ or expectation which we _____ meet, and so the effect is... that law or expectation stands as a _____ against us.

17. The only affect of a law is to reveal _____.

18. It has no power to create _____.

19. True righteousness is there apart from a _____, but when righteousness is not there laws become powerful because they _____ where we _____ them.

20. What is the chief purpose of law? To put people to _____.

21. God used law to _____ all mankind. Jews by the Mosaic law. Gentiles by the law written on their hearts

22. The solution to getting to heaven can _____ come by keeping _____.
(Which one can throw their rock closer to the North Pole? I might come closer than you, but I will still miss the target.)

Vs. 21

23. The most succinct statement of God's plan of salvation anywhere in the Bible. In those few sentences are all the words necessary to deliver men's souls from hell and into heaven.

Eight Points

24. **The Disclaimer.** Apart means to be _____ from or independent from.

25. How righteousness is made available to men is 100% apart from _____. Christian laws. Church _____. Organizational _____.

26. The salvation of our souls isn't accomplished through our own _____ or _____ or in the keeping of some set of rules or law. It is not by _____.

27. **The Goal.** The righteousness of God has been _____.

28. Manifested means disclosed or made _____, revealed.

29. God has made His righteousness _____ to a world that previously only knew unrighteousness.

30. It is not _____ righteousness.
31. The Gospel does not turn us into _____ people.
32. **The Promise.** The righteousness of God was _____ to by the law and the prophets.
33. Law and Prophets means the Old Testament.
34. The true purpose of the law and the Prophets was that they would _____ to God's plan for revealing His righteousness to man.
- 35 **The means.** Faith is the _____ of manifesting God's righteousness.
36. Paul did **not** say God's righteousness comes _____ of our faith in Jesus Christ.
37. Paul said God's righteousness comes _____ faith... The first implies a cause and _____.
38. Adds man's activity as a _____ ingredient to the chain of events. If the man doesn't do his part the chain breaks and the whole thing falls apart.
39. God is intent on delivering _____ righteousness to this individual _____ faith.
40. How is faith being made evident? By God placing faith in the _____ of a human being so that _____ becomes manifestation of God's righteousness.
41. The faithful _____ of the believer **is** the manifestation, and that's the conduit by which God brings His righteousness to the _____ individual.
42. It is not as though He waits for the individual to open the pathway so that then He can deliver the righteousness. That would put men in a position of _____ having to _____ God and _____ to Him properly, when testimony of scripture has already established conclusively that _____ does that.
43. The means is _____ and faith is _____ God's righteousness.
43. **The Recipients.** Who is eligible to receive this?
44. There is no distinction. Everyone is _____ "savable".

45. This is a gospel you can take to everyone. God has only _____ plan for salvation – it's the same for all men.

46. **The Gift.** Justified means to declare righteous, acquitted, vindicated, describes the successful outcome of a _____ process. Believers are those who are _____.

47. Through faith God has _____ them to be innocent of sin.

48. Does not mean that God has _____ them righteous.

49. This is the single most distinguishing feature of the Christian faith. We are _____ actually _____ of anything we are getting... we are simply _____ justified.

50. How can God do this and get away with it?

51. The result of a _____.

52. Grace is unmerited favor. Nothing can _____ it. Nothing we did, nothing we thought, nothing we sought after contributed to it in one bit.

53. Faith *itself* is a product of God's work, because apart from His work _____ can come to Him.

54. What gives God the right to overlook our sins, knowing that we deserve _____?

55. **The Cost.** Redemption in Christ Jesus.

56. Redemption is the obtaining of a _____ of someone through a _____. (ransom)

56. **The Result.** Jesus' _____ permits God to declare us righteous because He has received propitiation.

57. Propitiation=the act of appeasing _____ and conciliated the favor from the offended person.

58. God displayed Jesus _____ as an atoning sacrifice, as an appeasement for His wrath...through faith in His _____.

59. God can justify through a _____ in that _____.

Vs. 25

60. God's righteousness was demonstrated in the process of _____ men by His son's _____.

61. God can not let the _____ go free and still be a _____ judge. Someone has to _____ the _____. And the debt has to be paid by someone who doesn't _____ it himself.

62. In order for God's righteousness to be demonstrated, two things happened.

63. _____ has to be punished. We are declared _____.

64. Faith became the conduit to _____ His righteousness in the life of the _____.

Verse by Verse Ministry
A Study of the Book of Romans
Leader's Guide – 3A

Overview

This week's lesson was about the character of God and our response of faith to what we know. In the audio, Pastor Armstrong discusses the 8 aspects of the gospel apart from which there is no TRUE gospel. He uses these to prove that God being just, can still forgive us of our sin and allow us access to heaven without violating His character. He is a righteous judge who demands a price for sin...and accepts the payment that was made on our behalf.

Discussion Topics and Questions

1. Read Romans 3:1-2. Remember that the Jews had the "advantage" of the word in that it came to them first, showed them the blessings and curses presented according to their obedience, gave them opportunity to receive the coming savior, and gave them opportunity to be a light to the world through their obedience.
2. Now read Hebrews 4:1-2 and see what the problem was at its heart. What did the Jews fail to combine with the Word of God?
5. Read Hebrews 11:1. You've read this before but look at it again.
6. As a Christian, what exactly is it that we hope for, which we can not see? Paul spells it out in Romans 3:25 but remember the lessons where you learned the truth of the gospel message? There are two more passages you can add to the Roman Road. What is the new truth in the Gospel message from John 3:16 and Romans 5:8?
7. This is what we hope for, which we can not yet see. In this we have faith for *salvation*, but we also need to understand faith from a day-to-day perspective. If we live with an assurance of eternal salvation our actions will be marked by that in visible ways. These actions born of faith become the deeds for which we are rewarded, and by which God's righteousness is manifested.
8. The word for **faith** and **believe** in Greek is the same. Both words mean by definition *trust with the implication that action will follow*. Let's look at this by metaphor to put some real-world application to it, but let's take it step by step.
9. Here is a way of thinking about faith. Faith is like being sure that my chair will hold me if I sit down on it.(I sure hope it will but I can't see it for certain – Hebrews 11:1) If I say I believe this is true but I'm too afraid to try it, is that true faith? Why/Why not?

10. When I act on my faith in the chair, what do I do?
11. When I do that, am I trusting my faith, or trusting the chair?
12. For whichever answer you chose, explain why you trust in that thing.
13. Does the fact that the chair holds me prove my faith, or prove the chair? How?
14. If I never choose to sit on the chair, would it still be able to hold me?
15. If I never choose to sit on the chair, will I ever receive its benefits?
16. Is that a failure of the chair, or a failure of faith?
17. Who suffers if I never sit down?
18. Now that you've pieced it out let's stitch it together.

Faith is being sure that my chair will hold me if I sit on it. In order to demonstrate my faith, I must actually sit on the chair. That the chair does in fact hold me proves the **chair** faithful to my conviction in it. Its faithful performance as promised proves that it is just as it ought to be. The chair doesn't hold me **because** I believed that it would, but only because it is true to its own nature as a chair. It can not choose to fail but I can choose not to receive its benefits. When I demonstrate my faith in the chair by sitting on it, I receive the gift inherent in its nature; from faith that the chair will hold me, I have the gift of rest. That costs me nothing. I simply receive the benefit which would have been even available even if I had not sat down.

19. Why is it necessary to combine the word with our faith? (Leader note...Be sure they understand the question correctly and that they don't answer why it's important to combine faith with the word. These two questions are entirely different.)
20. What's true in the natural is true in the spiritual. It's a little more difficult to see when put into the context of salvation, so let's use an example from Joshua. Read Joshua 3:7-17.
21. In what were the people putting their faith?
22. However, to demonstrate their faith, what must Joshua and the people do?

23. Does the fact that God parts the water prove that their faith is trustworthy, or prove that God is trustworthy?

24. If they choose to never cross the Jordan, would God still have been able to part the water? Is His ability diminished by their lack of belief?

25. If they never chose to cross the Jordan, would they ever have enjoyed the Promised Land? (Remember the lesson learned by their forefathers about this same issue!)

26. Would that be a God's failure to keep His word, or their failure to believe Him?

27. Now read Romans 3:3. With the understanding you've just gained, explain this verse.

28. Just because you don't believe it, doesn't mean it isn't true. Just because you say you believe it doesn't mean that's true either. Read James 2:14-18 and then summarize what he means based on the little bit of study you've done today.

29. Is it possible that you are not acting in faith in some areas because you are afraid that God won't come through on His promises – or because you don't KNOW His promises?

30. Is that because you don't trust *Him*, or because you feel unworthy of His faithfulness? Do you think *He* will fail *you* because *you* have failed *Him*? Is there some part of you that is afraid that YOU can't make happen what you desire as an outcome...therefore have you made yourself an idol??

31. Are there scriptures you need to learn to help you increase your ability to DEMONSTRATE faith in this area?

32. In weeks past we discussed being an ambassador for Christ and how Romans 1:17 teaches that as well. Now discuss why it's so important to learn to demonstrate our faith. Who is watching? What's at stake? What do we have to lose according to 2 Corinthians 5:10?

33. **Grace** is defined as *unmerited favor*. How does the fact that God is faithful to His own nature despite our behavior prove this definition?

Summary

You should understand clearly by now that none of us deserves His faithfulness. This is a reality that we share universally with believers and unbelievers alike. The fact that God is faithful proves His own nature, not

our worthiness. Every time we trust Him, we prove Him to be true to Himself, not true to us or true to our faith in Him. Choose today to believe God because of who He is, not because of who you are or what you've done—that will make your faith unshakable and rock-solid.