

## **Romans 3- Justification by Faith**

Last week we learned about the condition of the human heart. Without God, mankind is depraved, sick, and dying. Man will always choose to sin and not obey God. Without God, you are his enemy. You are not a good person. You do not have a good heart. You are not nice. You are guilty.

Have you ever seen a court room? Have you ever met a judge? When you die, all of you will go to trial. The great loving God of the universe is also the great judge of the world. You will be required to stand before God and account for all your sins. Picture yourself standing before the judge, guilty of your sins, listening to the millions of failures in your life, knowing the only outcome is the judge slamming the hammer down and yelling "Guilty!" In dread and fear, you anticipate the punishment that is to come. You know you are guilty. There is no hope. There is not a single person in this world who will be considered innocent. Everyone will be guilty for the sins of their heart. The sentence that all of us deserve is hell. We deserve a life separated from God.

Romans 3:23-25 reads, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by his grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus: whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in his blood through faith."

Are you ready for the best news you will ever hear? God gave you the greatest gift you could ever want. He gave you Jesus. Jesus, who is both God and man, lived a perfect life in this world, took upon himself your sins, and died on a cross, paying the penalty that you deserve. The judgement that you deserve, Christ took upon himself. On the cross, Jesus took the punishment you deserved.

Think about the court room scene. Right when the judgement is about to be handed out, Jesus Christ, one who is completely innocent, stands in front of the judge and yells, "Take me instead. I will take the punishment that they deserve." The innocent suffers on the cross, while the guilty is freed. This is the love that Jesus Christ has for you. This is what salvation looks like. It is a free and marvelous gift from Jesus Christ.

### **Questions to Consider**

- 1. What is the condition of the human heart?**
- 2. Are you considered innocent or guilty before the judge?**
- 3. What has Jesus Christ done for you?**
- 4. Why is this love so amazing?**