



**NOWTHEN
ALLIANCE
CHURCH**

STUDY GUIDE

For the sermon on April 26, 2020

Romans 3-4

REFLECT | REVIEW

Review and reflect on the Scriptures and important points of the sermon.

As we continue in Paul's letter, reflect on the broad outline of what Paul sets out to make clear. We are still in his beginning section, focused primarily on God's righteousness and how that plays out the same for both the Jews and the Gentiles.

You can break Romans down broadly into 4 parts (These titles come from N.T. Wright and Michael Bird).

1. Unveiling God's righteousness (1-4)
2. From new covenant to new creation (5-8)
3. God's faithfulness and Israel's unbelief (9-11)
4. Faithfulness and fellowship in the wider world (12-16)

ENGAGE | ENCOURAGE

Consider together what God is asking you to do and encourage each other.

Read **Romans 3:1-8**. Paul begins by pointing out some of the differences that set the Jews apart. Particularly he points out that they had been trusted with the law. What benefit was this for the Jews?

Paul has made clear this distinction is not what saves them and then plays out some hypotheticals on how people may respond with more sin for God to be seen more righteous. Why wouldn't this be a good idea?

Romans 3:9-20 goes in depth on how none of us are righteous by the law. It was a privilege to have, but as an identity can't justify you. While we aren't ethnically Jews, what kinds of privileges can we recognize we have? How can we celebrate them? Why can't we rely on them? Do they save us?

Romans 3:21-31 focus again on Paul's thesis. What reveals God's righteousness more clearly than the law did? What justifies us? What privileges are worth boasting about then?

Read **Romans 4:1-25**. Paul moves from talking about just the people he's addressing to tracing God's story back to Abraham. How was Abraham saved? How made righteous? What role did the law play for Abraham? What is meant by "many nations?" in the promise to Abraham? Why does it matter that this statement of righteousness came before circumcision?

How does the promise to Abraham extend to us? (**Read 4:23-35**)

How do we go about giving up a righteousness based on the law? Do you need to? How do you find it in Jesus? Are you rooted in that?

LOOKING AHEAD

Read chapters 5-6 before next week's sermon. Think of any questions you may have on what they meant then, and how they apply to us today. Reach out to someone you trust with those questions if you don't feel they get answered specifically next week.