




# Connect

What is a funny experience where you tried to perfectly follow the "rules" of a manual or recipe, but it ended in a complete disaster?

# Verses - Romans 3:9-26 (CSB)

**Read aloud:**

9 What then? Are we any better off? Not at all! For we have already charged that both
Jews and Greeks are all under sin, 10 as it is written: There is no one righteous, not
even one. 11 There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All
have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is
good, not even one. 13 Their throat is an open grave; they deceive with their tongues.
Vipers' venom is under their lips. 14 Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. 15
Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and wretchedness are in their paths, 17 and
the path of peace they have not known. 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.
19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are subject to the
law, so that every mouth may be shut and the whole world may become subject to
God's judgment. 20 For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law,
because the knowledge of sin comes through the law. 21 But now, apart from the law,
the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets. 22
The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since
there is no distinction. 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24
they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25
God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his
righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed.
26 God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he
would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?**

# Study

**Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:**

1. According to the text, what is the universal state of humanity regarding righteousness and seeking God? (vv.9–11)

2. How does the scripture describe the words and speech of humanity? (vv.13–14)

3. What is the actual function of the law if it cannot justify anyone? (vv.19–20)

4. How does God justify people who have sinned and fallen short of His glory? (vv.23–24)

# Share

**Discuss 1:**
Pastor Takeshi compares the Bible to a mirror: it clearly shows us our "dirty faces" (our sins) but has zero power to wash them for us. It's easy to get stuck just staring at the dirt and feeling guilty. Have you ever felt frustrated by knowing what God wants, but feeling like you lack the power to actually do it? How does Jesus offer us more than just a "mirror" in those moments?

**Discuss 2:**
Pastor Takeshi mentioned that "redemption" isn't just a church word, it's an ancient marketplace term for buying a slave's freedom. We don't usually like to think of ourselves as "slaves to sin." What are some everyday things like habits, mindsets, or cultural pressures that people become enslaved to today without even realizing it? Are there any you care to share as a prayer request?

**Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing specific prayer requests.**