

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: God vs. Humanity

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 3:9-26

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is something terribly wrong in this world, but God did not make the world with something wrong in it.
 - i) When God created the world, He said that it was good.
 - (1) Genesis 1:31
 - ii) Sin has come into the world.
- b) The sin is not primarily in the world as it is in the hearts of people.
- c) We will never get the cure for sin until we have a proper diagnosis, until we see the problem.
 - i) We must understand what the need is.
- d) In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul lays out the problem so that we can see it and understand it.
 - i) In Romans 1, Paul talks about the sin of the heathen, those who have never heard.
 - ii) In Romans 2, he talks about the sin of the hypocrite, those who have heard but whose lives are full of duplicity.
 - iii) In the last part of Romans 2, he talks about the sin of the Hebrew, those who thought that sin did not affect them because they were God's chosen and had the Bible and knew the truth.
 - iv) Paul then sums it up in Romans 3 and comes to the sin of humanity, all of us.
 - (1) He says that there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek.
 - (2) Romans 3:23
- e) In Romans 3, the Apostle Paul takes on the role of prosecuting attorney, and he brings the human race before the judgment bar of Almighty God.
 - i) He makes an indictment, and the case is God vs. Humanity.

2) THE INDICTMENT THAT IS GIVEN (ROMANS 3:9-10)

- a) Romans 3:9-10
 - i) "They" in this passage refers to the heathen, the hypocrite, and the Hebrew.
 - ii) The word "prove" here is a legal term which means to make an indictment and prove it.
 - iii) The words "under sin" literally mean "dominated by sin," "ruled by sin," "subjugated to sin."
 - (1) It is not only that we sin, but we serve sin and have become slaves to sin.
 - (a) The irony is that a sinner boasts about his freedom when, in reality, he is a slave to sin.
 - (i) He is free to do what he wants, but he's not free to do as he ought.
 - iv) It does not matter about race or ethnic background, whether he is a Jew or Gentile, young or old, rich or poor; he is a sinner.
- b) We are sinners by birth, by nature and by heritage.

- c) The people in the book of Romans wanted to compare themselves to someone else and say that they were better than the other person, but that's not the standard.
 - i) The standard is the glory of God.
 - ii) Romans 3:23
 - iii) We need to stop comparing ourselves to one another.
 - d) Total depravity does not mean that we're as sinful as we can be, but that every part of our nature is contaminated by sin.
 - i) Sin is in our heart and our mind.
 - ii) Matthew 15:19
 - (1) Sin comes out of our heart.
 - (a) We may not have committed a particular sin, but it is down there in our heart.
 - e) Because sin is an internal thing, reformation is not enough.
 - i) All reformation does is to, presumably, straighten us out on the outside, but the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.
 - (1) Jeremiah 17:9
- 3) THE EVIDENCE AGAINST US (ROMANS 3:11)
- a) God presents the evidence against us, and He shows how sin has corrupted the entire human personality of every man, woman, boy, and girl on the Earth.
 - b) Man has a corrupted wisdom.
 - i) Romans 3:11
 - ii) Man's mind has been warped by sin.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - (1) Man may be otherwise brilliant, but he cannot understand God.
 - iv) When it comes to spiritual and eternal things, man is ignorant.
 - (1) His wisdom is warped, his imaginations are filthy, and his deductions are false.
 - (2) The average man thinks that he can go to Heaven without being born again.
 - v) Man is absolutely ignorant of how sinful he is and how holy God is.
 - vi) Our minds have been touched by sin.
 - c) Man has a corrupted will.
 - i) Romans 3:11-12
 - (1) This passage tells us that people don't seek God.
 - ii) All over the world there are temples, and people everywhere are religious.
 - (1) How could Paul say to Rome with all of its gods that there are none who seek after God?
 - (a) These people are not seeking God; they're in demon worship.
 - (b) 1 Corinthians 10:20
 - (c) They're not seeking the true God of Heaven; they're fleeing the true God of Heaven.

- iii) The only reason that we sought Jehovah God, the true God, is that He sought us.
- iv) Ever since the Garden of Eden, man has been running from God.
 - (1) Genesis 3:8-9
 - (2) Adam hid from God, and God came seeking Adam.
 - (a) God's voice was not the voice of a detective but of a brokenhearted God who was seeking Adam.
- v) 1 John 4:19
- vi) John 6:44
 - (1) If you have a hunger to know God, it is because the Holy Spirit is drawing you.
- vii) There are some churches and services today that are called "seeker sensitive" services.
 - (1) They say that people who come to these services are seeking God.
 - (2) But humanity is not seeking God.
 - (3) The seeker is Jesus Christ, and He is seeking us.
 - (a) Luke 19:10
- viii) We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to convict the sinner, which is why we need to soak all that we do in prayer.
- ix) Isaiah 53:6
 - (1) If the shepherd doesn't go and find the sheep, the sheep will never come home.
- x) Romans 3:12
 - (1) The word "unprofitable" refers to milk or meat that has spoiled.
 - (a) God made us to serve Him, but when we don't do it, we're unprofitable servants.
 - (2) "Unprofitable" literally means good for nothing.
- d) Man has corrupted words.
 - i) Romans 3:13-14
 - ii) The words just tell us what's down in the heart.
 - iii) Matthew 12:34
 - iv) Some people dismiss cursing by saying that they don't mean anything by it when they take God's name in vain.
 - (1) That's where the indictment is, that God means no more to them than a curse word that they can mix in the muck and the mire.
 - (2) Exodus 20:7
 - (3) People will not curse God when they meet Him face to face in the judgment.
- e) Man has corrupted ways.
 - i) Romans 3:15-17
 - ii) Violence, child abuse, abortion, war and filth are prominent around the world.
 - iii) Sin has turned this world into a madhouse.
- f) Man has corrupted worship.

- i) Romans 3:18
 - ii) With all of our troubles, you would think that mankind would be prostrate on the ground asking God for mercy.
 - (1) Instead, people are egomaniacs, strutting to Hell and laughing about God.
 - iii) Psalm 111:10
 - (1) The fear of God is a reverence, a holy awe of Almighty God.
 - (2) The fear of God is love on its knees before Almighty God.
 - (a) Our generation has lost the fear of God.
 - iv) The worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness is substituted for the new birth.
 - (1) We somehow have the idea that our goodness is good.
 - (a) Proverbs 21:4
 - (i) A farmer who plows a field without giving glory to God, who causes the rain to fall and the seed to germinate, is sin.
 - (ii) This passage means that the sinner can do no good.
 - 1. Even his good is bad if he's not saved.
 - 2. Even though the fruit may be good, he has contaminated what he has touched.
 - (iii) The unsaved man contaminates all that he touches because he himself is a sinner.
- 4) THE VERDICT THAT IS HANDED DOWN (ROMANS 3:19-20)
- a) God gives the verdict.
 - i) He doesn't depend upon a jury.
 - ii) He Himself is the judge.
 - b) Romans 3:19-20
 - i) The verdict is guilty.
 - ii) The law was not given to save us but to condemn and convict us.
 - (1) The law cannot save but was given to show us that we're sinners.
 - (2) Sin is the transgression of the law, and we have come short of God's holy law.
 - iii) The wisest thing that we could do today would be to shut our mouths and plead guilty.
 - (1) We will never be saved until we admit our guilt before Almighty God.
 - c) Luke 18:9-14
 - i) The publican mentioned here was a dishonest tax collector.
 - ii) "Be merciful to me a sinner" literally says in the Greek, "Be merciful to me, the sinner."
 - iii) The publican, rather than the religious man, went home justified.
 - (1) Like the publican and the religious man, we can go home either dignified or justified.
 - d) Not until we admit our sin will we know the mercy and forgiveness of the King.

- e) All have sinned.
 - i) Romans 3:23
- 5) THE MERCY THAT IS AVAILABLE (ROMANS 3:21-26)
 - a) God is not fair.
 - i) Fairness has the idea that we deserve something.
 - (1) And when we get it, we think that we're getting what we deserve.
 - (2) We're not thankful when we get it, we're just upset that we didn't get it sooner and doubly upset if someone else gets more than we got.
 - b) God is just.
 - i) God doesn't owe us anything.
 - c) God is a God of mercy.
 - i) But we will never plead for mercy until we see the justice of God.
 - ii) As long as we're prating about God being fair, we're not going to cry out for mercy.
 - iii) When we see that God is a just God and that we're guilty and deserve judgment, then we can plead for God's mercy.
 - d) God is just, but we need mercy.
 - i) We need the mercy of the court.
 - ii) It is not until the indictment is made, the evidence given, and the verdict comes down that we then throw ourselves upon the mercy of the court, and we're ready for God's grace and salvation.
 - (1) If you've not come to the place where you've seen yourself as a sinner, lost before Almighty God, and cried out to Him for mercy, then you've never been saved.
 - (2) You may have walked down a church aisle, joined a church, been baptized and turned over a new leaf, but have you thrown yourself on the mercy of the court and said, "Lord God, be merciful to me a sinner?"
 - e) Here is the mercy that we will receive:
 - i) It is of God.
 - (1) Romans 3:21
 - (a) It is the righteousness of God.
 - (2) Justification is an act of God.
 - (a) No court can ever justify anybody.
 - (i) All a court can do is to prove you guilty or innocent.
 - (ii) They may pardon you, they may fail to sentence you, but they cannot justify you.
 - (b) Only God can make the unclean clean.
 - (3) Justification is the way that God declares us righteous in His sight.
 - (a) He puts the righteousness of Christ on our account and bears our own sinfulness.
 - (b) No one but God can do this.
 - ii) It is by faith.

- (1) Romans 3:22
 - (2) God doesn't require anything else.
 - (a) He doesn't require baptism, He doesn't require money, and He doesn't require good works.
 - (i) If He did, some would be disqualified.
 - (3) Faith, in the natural realm, is a very common thing.
 - (a) It takes faith to fly on an airplane.
 - (b) It takes faith to take medication.
 - (c) It takes faith to eat a cooked meal.
 - (4) The difference in saving faith is found in the source and the object.
 - (a) God gives us that faith, and then we place our faith in the Lord Jesus.
- iii) It is unto all.
- (1) Romans 3:22-23
 - (2) All people need to be saved, and all people can be saved.
 - (3) There is no one so good he need not be saved and no one so bad he cannot be saved.
 - (a) Whether you are Nicodemus or the Samaritan woman, you can be saved.
- iv) It is through grace.
- (1) Romans 3:24
 - (2) Grace is the most beautiful word in the Bible, other than Jesus.
 - (3) Grace is what makes God love us when there is nothing lovely about us.
 - (a) Romans 5:8
 - (b) We are not loved because we're valuable; we're valuable because we're loved.
- v) It is in Jesus.
- (1) Romans 3:24-25
 - (2) It is in Jesus, not in the church or in good deeds.
 - (3) Redemption is in Jesus.
 - (a) He's made us free.
 - (4) The word "redemption" in this passage in Romans means "to buy out of the slave market."
 - (5) We are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus.
 - (a) He loves us, He died for us, and He redeems us.
- vi) It is with justice.
- (1) Romans 3:26
 - (a) This is the Gospel.
 - (b) It is based on law.
 - (i) God is a holy God, He will be true to His own honor, and He will be true to His own law.
 - (2) God cannot overlook sin.
 - (a) Sin must be paid for.

- (b) If God were to let sin go unpunished, then God would be unjust.
- (3) It is said that in a court of law when a guilty man is acquitted, the judge is condemned.
- (4) But on the cross, Jesus paid the full price for our sins.
 - (a) Because of Calvary, God is both just and the justifier.
 - (i) Romans 3:26
- (5) It is in Jesus, and it is with judgment and justice.
 - (a) God doesn't overlook sin; He pardons it freely by His grace.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) There is no other way to be saved but through Jesus.
 - i) You cannot be saved by good deeds.
 - (1) Galatians 2:21
- b) God is just, and He's a God of mercy.
- c) By the cross, He will save you.
- d) Your sin will be either pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but it will never be overlooked.
- e) Won't you be saved today?
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16