

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Therefore God is Not Fair, BUT...

Romans 3:21-31 | 5 February 2023 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Reflection Questions

1. In one aspect, what we want as good news is dependent on what we perceive as bad news. For example, if we are always concerned for our finances, then good news to us would be a promotion with a pay increment. God's good news might not appeal to many people because they are not concerned with the bad news as written in the Bible.
 - i. Everyone share 1 bad news that we can find from the newspapers.
 - ii. Everyone share 1 bad news that ordinary people might encounter.
 - iii. Contrast all these (newspaper/ordinary people) bad news with the bad news found in Romans 1:1 to 3:20

Any similarities? Differences?

Have you ever communicated biblical bad news to a non-Christian that he/she was very much impacted and the person wanted to know God's good news?

If you do not have such experience, perhaps you can discuss how you can help someone appreciate the gravity of biblical bad news. Is there any way we can use their perceived bad news (sometimes also known as 'felt needs') to link up to biblical bad news?

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2. What would be 1 Bad News which you would never want to hear in your life?

Share and then take some time to pray for each other – that the Lord may grant His mercy so that we will never need to experience this particular bad news.

3. As it is written in Romans 3:22, “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

These are the 4 beliefs we must have in order to have faith in Jesus Christ:

- a) *On our own, we will not survive God’s judgment*
- b) *God has provided a 3rd way (besides Commandments and Conscience) through Christ to save us, to cover our sins so that we will not be judged guilty*
- c) *I want Jesus to cover my sins, to save me*
- d) *Christ’s redemption is COMPLETE and FREE – we simply need to believe and trust God at His word (we do not need to do anything else)*

- i. **Do you agree with these 4 beliefs?**
- ii. **Do you have any problem, or do you know of anyone who has some problems with any of these beliefs, especially part 4, where we do not need to do anything to receive Christ’s righteousness; we simply need to believe and trust God? Please share.**

4. During the sermon, Pastor Aaron mentioned that some Christians have queries arising from the fact that Christ’s redemption is COMPLETE and FREE. He shared that the Apostle Paul had

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already anticipated these questions and hence they are answered in other parts of Romans.

These are some of the questions:

- a) *Is there nothing I really need to do? Shouldn't I do some good deeds? Be good?*
- b) *If I can easily escape judgment just by believing in Christ, what is stopping me from sinning over and over again, and then just believing in Christ? Is God condoning evil through this 3rd way?*
- c) *Isn't it unfair that Christians who believe in Christ, yet are sinning, will escape God's judgment while a relatively good non-Christian will face God's wrath?*

Even though it would be taught in later chapters of Romans, let us discuss these 3 questions first.

5. Romans 3:24-26 teaches us that the righteousness of God which He wants to give to us:
 - a) *Comes from Christ's sacrifice of **atonement***
 - b) *And His Sacrifice can somehow Redeem us, and it is*
 - c) *Both Just and able to Justifies those who have faith in Christ*

- i. **What do you understand about Christ's sacrifice of atonement for us ?**
- ii. **Besides atonement, our Lord Jesus Christ also accomplished many important things at the Cross – share with each other what you know regarding that which Christ fulfilled at the Cross.**

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6. Therefore God is not fair, because it seems that some people are almost certain to face God's wrath because it is very difficult for them to make a choice for Christ. There are at least 2 types of such people:
- a) Those who live in countries and places where there is no church and there are no Christians to share the Gospel with them.
 - b) Those who faithfully belong to other religions.

Why must these people become Christians before they can be saved? Why must they be punished simply because they are born into non-Christian families and cultures? Why can't God use other religions as ways to reach Him too – after all isn't it true that most world religions teach people to do good?

Consider what was preached in the sermon. Is God fair or unfair? Or are we the ones who are unfair? Discuss.

7. Take time to pray for each other's non-Christian family/friends: pray that his/her/their hearts would be opened to understand and respond to biblical bad news, and desire to seek and receive God's Good News instead.

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