

Sermon Growth Guide

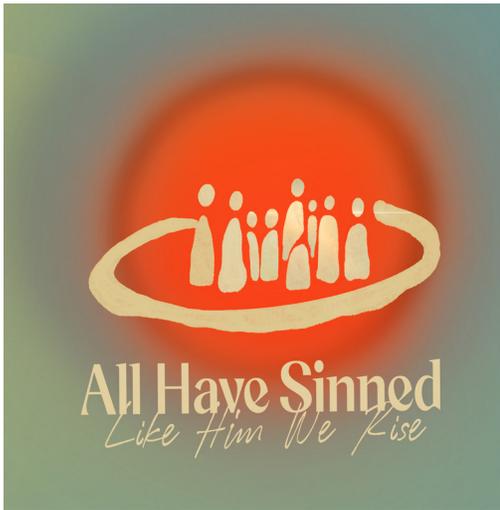
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All Have Sinned | Romans 3:5-20

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Key Verse: “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it.” (Romans 3:21)

Big Idea: God does not ignore our sin and He does not lower His standard. Instead, He gives us His righteousness as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ.



Foundations

For three chapters in Romans, Paul carefully dismantles every illusion of human goodness. Religious people, moral people, and rebellious people alike all stand in the same place: guilty before a holy God. No amount of effort, sincerity, or rule-keeping can repair what sin has broken.

Then comes one of the most important phrases in the Bible: “But now.”

God has done what we could never do. Through Jesus’ sacrificial death, God satisfies His justice and extends His mercy at the same time. On the cross, Jesus becomes our redemption, our propitiation, and our righteousness. We are not saved by trying harder, but by trusting Christ.

This means salvation is not achieved — it is received. Boasting is silenced. Fear is relieved. And faith becomes the open hand that accepts the grace of God!

Understanding God’s Word

Why is Paul so careful in Romans 1–3 to show that everyone is under sin?

What does it mean that God’s righteousness is revealed “apart from the law?”

Paul says God presented Jesus as a “propitiation.” What problem does that word solve about how a holy God can forgive guilty sinners?

Why does Paul insist that justification is by faith and not by works?

Applying God’s Word

Where do you most naturally try to “prove” yourself to God — morality, religious activity, knowledge, or comparison with others?

How does justification by faith change the way you handle guilt and shame?

If your standing with God is a gift rather than an achievement, how might that affect your daily joy and peace?

Witnessing God’s Word

This week, ask God to put one person on your heart who feels either far from God or weighed down by failure. Pray for an opportunity to share the simple message of grace:

“You are not accepted because you are good — you are accepted because Jesus is good!”