

WHY WE NEED THE GOSPEL

Romans 1-3

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How would you describe the “problem of sin”?
- How would you summarize the Gospel?

In this episode, we begin an exploration of Paul’s letter to the church in Rome. The letter starts with what sounds like a lot of bad news, yet as we listen more closely, we realize that there’s some really good news God wants us to know. By being honest about sin, especially in our own lives, Jesus’ loving sacrifice becomes all the more incredible. And as the apostle Paul shares, the law then becomes a gift—rather than a burden—that helps us become more like Christ in our everyday living and witness.

Listen: [*Why We Need the Gospel*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee highlight how both Romans 1:18 and Psalm 19 remind us that we have plenty of proof all around us that God exists, but we often suppress that truth and deceive ourselves. What tempts you to deny God’s existence? When God is not the center of your life, what or who becomes your idol?
- In segment 2, Scott identifies two reasons God gave us his law: 1) to reveal sin, which helps us see our need for the gospel, and 2) to reveal a better way to live. How might remembering the first reason for the law help you keep the law as a guide for righteous living? What is the difference between understanding the law as a guide for righteous living versus seeing it as the way to save yourself?
- At the end of segment 2, we’re reminded that our evangelical witness includes our external deeds as well as our internal piety. How do these two relate to each other and why does it matter?
- In segment 3, Scott talks about how the church became uncomfortable talking about sin in the 1980s and 90s. Are you comfortable talking about sin—including your own—with God, with others in your faith community, or even with non-Christians? Why or why not? What does a healthy conversation about sin look like?

Related Passages

- **Acts 28:30-31**
- **Psalm 19**
- **Hebrews 10**

- **Matthew 5:17-20**
- **Mark 12:28-34**

Conclusion

In segment 2, we're reminded about the danger of judging others for their sins while hypocritically continuing in our own sinful habits. Write or say a prayer of confession and repentance about your own hypocrisy and the ways you judge others.

After you have finished your prayer time, read one of the following Scripture passages, that assures you, and all of us, of God's forgiveness: Psalm 103:8-13, Isaiah 1:18, Romans 5:8-9, or 1 Peter 2:24.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/why-we-need-the-gospel>

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