

Sermon

Romans 3:19-28

Set Free



Set free

Romans 1:17 (NIV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the **righteousness of God** is revealed.



Set free

Romans 1:17 (Luther)

“At first I clearly saw that the free grace of God is absolutely necessary to attain to light and eternal life; and I anxiously and busily worked to understand the word of Paul in Rom. 1:17, ‘The righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel’. I questioned this passage for a long time and labored over it, for the expression ‘righteousness of God’ barred my way.”



Set free

Romans 1:17 (Luther)

“This phrase was customarily explained to mean that the righteousness of God is a virtue by which He is Himself righteous and condemns sinners. In this way all the teachers of the church except Augustine had interpreted the passage. They had said: The righteousness of God, that is (id est), the wrath of God.”



Set free

Romans 1:17 (Luther)

“But as often as I read this passage, I wished that God had never revealed the Gospel; for who could love a God who was angry, who judged and condemned people? This misunderstanding continued until, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, I finally examined more carefully the word of Habakkuk: ‘The just shall live by his faith’ (2:4).”



Set free

Romans 1:17 (Luther)

“From this passage I concluded that life must be derived from faith. . . . Then the entire Holy Scripture became clear to me, and heaven itself was opened to me. Now we see this brilliant light very clearly, and we are privileged to enjoy it abundantly.”

(WLS § 2600)



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having **excuses**, and to show that the **entire world is guilty before God**. 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands.

The law simply **shows us how sinful we are**.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“... God, then, wants to achieve no more with the Law than getting us thereby to recognize our inability, our frailty, and sickness — to recognize that, so far as we are concerned, we cannot keep one letter of the Law. When you feel that, the Law has done its work. ...”

(W 101, 2, 407 — E 14, 174 — SL 11, 1696)



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

22 ... There is no difference between Jew and
Gentile, 23 for **all have sinned and fall short of**
the glory of God ...



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

22 ... And this is true for everyone who believes,
no matter who we are.

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of
God's glorious standard.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“... though we live in the highest and best estates on earth and like to boast much, we are nothing before God but corruption and filth, full of lice, maggots, stench, and dirt. Hence St. Paul says: “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23), and Isaiah says: “We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Is. 64:6).

(W 46, 651 f—E 46, 60 f—SL 7, 1684)



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

21 But now **apart from the law** the righteousness of God has been made known, to which **the Law and the Prophets testify.**



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

22 This righteousness is given through
faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe ...

24 and all are **justified freely** by his grace
through the redemption that came
by Christ Jesus.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

24 ... God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“There is no such thing as merit; but all who are justified are justified for nothing (gratis), and this is credited to no one but to the grace of God.”

(W 18, 769 — E op var arg 7, 341- SL 18, 1937)



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand **unpunished.**



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“Because Christ has become a King and Priest for you and bestowed this great blessing on you, you dare not imagine that it was done for nothing or cost little or comes to you because of your merit. ... It cost Him much. He earned it at the greatest expense with His own blood, body, and life. ...”



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“For to put down God's wrath, judgment, conscience, hell, death, and everything evil and to gain everything good could not be done without satisfying divine justice, paying for sin, and really overcoming death. . . .”

(W 101, 1, 719f - E 10, 474f - SL 11, 422)



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be **just** and the **one who justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

27 Where, then, is boasting?

It is excluded.

Because of what law?

The law that requires works?

No, because of the **law that requires faith.**



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

27 Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God?

No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law.

It is based on faith.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NIV) (p770)

28 For we maintain that
a person is **justified by faith**
apart from the works of the law.



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (NLT)

**28 So we
are made right with God through faith
and not by obeying the law.**



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“First, we are taught and we teach that the beginning of salvation, nay, the whole burden of it, is faith in Christ, who alone wipes away sins through His blood, not through our works... For so says Paul: (Rom. 3:28), ‘We conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law.’ But we teach that this faith is a gift of God, created in our heart by the Holy Spirit, not fashioned or formed by our own acts ...”



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“... Faith is rather a living thing which changes the whole person, not by any merit of ours but solely through the Word of God ...

The second chief part is that, justified through faith in the Word, incorporated into the association with Christ, and having in Christ already overcome all sins and ills, nothing remains for us but to do good works and to lead a pious life. ...”



Set free

Romans 3:19-28 (Luther)

“... Not that we want to become good thereby or wipe out our sins (which is the work of faith alone), but that as good trees we testify by our good works that we are already free from sins. A good tree does not become good through its fruits, but it is indeed recognized as good by these most certain proofs.”

(W-Br 3, 150f — SL 21a, 546 f)



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