
EQUIP

**Finding your redemption
Small Group Session Three
Week beginning 2nd October**



Being Equipped

As we think about serving God with the whole of our lives, we need to understand what life is all about. We need to know deeply what is happening at the very centre of the universe. We need to understand the very core of the story of the world. This week, we have come to the very heart of it all...

Two sessions ago we marvelled at God's good world and our blessed place in it. Last session that perfect world was turned to rubble and ruin. Humankind unrighteously rejected God, wanted to be like God, disobeyed God and doubted God. The consequence of this rebellion against God, this mutiny to overthrow God was catastrophic. Gods just and right judgment fell - on the earth, on the creatures and on humankind. As Paul concludes in Romans 3:10-11, there is no-one left who is righteous and no-one who has not rejected God. Everyone lives under the right and just curse of God, in His cursed world. In the end everyone dies and faces judgment.

Well now, as much as that diagnosis should move us to tears, this week's solution will move us to joy and to rejoicing... but the interesting thing about salvation is that we think it is easy to save. Our world thinks that that is what gods do, if they exist then surely they are always forgiving. Don't they always let us off the hook and welcome us into the life beyond? As we are going to see, if only it was that easy!

Before you begin - why not pray for each other - pray that the Lord by His Spirit will knock you over with the wonderful reality of the gospel and send you home rejoicing in Jesus.

If you would like a question to start you thinking, why not summarise (in less than 20 words) what you think "the heart of the Christian good news is...".

God presented Christ as a
sacrifice of atonement, through
the shedding of his blood

Romans 3:25

Finding your redemption

1 Everything put right

Last week we saw that we have rejected God. In the letter to the Romans, Paul describes this as being unrighteous or (3:10) no-one is righteous. It simply means to be out of a right relationship with God, under God's curse or judgment.

Time for a list, only one this week. Read Romans 3:21-24. What four or five different things do we learn about unrighteous people becoming righteous?

Having completed the list, now pause for a moment. Which of these different things might make us give thanks God most?

2 How is everything put right

We have seen that righteousness is a gift to all who believe, but how is that righteousness made possible? Read verses 24-25a. How is it possible that we can be made righteous?

What is the significance of Jesus being a sacrifice of atonement?

Now read 25b-26. We would normally say that God offers Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement because He loves us. How is the answer here quite different?

3 Truly staggering

These things can be hard to get our heads round, but when we do grasp them they are truly staggering. Let's let some of the implications sink in.

What reasons do these verses give us to: 1. be humble. 2. be joyful.

What do these verses tell us about: 1. our greatest need. 2. the uniqueness of this solution.

If this is what is going on at the heart of our world, what are the implications for our church and for our lives?

