

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Romans 3:21-26
Monday	John 1:29-34; Psalm 93; Proverbs 18:23-24
Tuesday	Romans 6:1-14; Psalm 94:1-9; Proverbs 19:1-4
Wednesday	Romans 6:15-7:6; Psalm 94:10-23; Proverbs 19:5-7
Thursday	Romans 7:7-8:11; Psalm 95:1-4; Proverbs 19:8-11
Friday	Romans 8:12-30; Psalm 95:5-11; Proverbs 19:12-15
Saturday	Romans 8:31-39; Psalm 96:1-5; Proverbs 19:16-18

DEVOTIONAL: READ ROMANS 3:21-26

The saving work of Jesus is the central message of the Bible from its beginning to its end. In Genesis 22, the ram provided for sacrifice illustrates that God would one day send His only Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sin. In Revelation, it is Jesus who announces His intention to take the world back from the power of Satan. Paul tells us in Romans 3:21-22 that righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other! He alone is the hero who can save.

This saving work of God's grace, made possible by the shedding of Christ's blood, is available to all. God tells us plainly that our sin has caused us to fall short of God's standard of righteousness. Our ability to do good things is never enough to earn or deserve forgiveness for our sin. We fall

woefully short. But thanks be to God; He made a way!

Just as our sin left us wholly unworthy of forgiveness, God demonstrated His righteousness by presenting Christ as our atoning sacrifice. Our sins that stand between us and God are erased from our account when we place our trust in Him. Our minds have difficulty grasping such a gift, but God did this to demonstrate His righteousness and the absolute necessity of faith in Jesus to reconcile our standing with Him.

When we err to think "the story" is about us, it is important to remember that God's focus is not our sin but His righteousness. Jesus is the hero and main character. By His work on the cross we are saved and able to enter into His redemptive story.

REFLECTION

What is God's standard for redemption? How do you measure up?

How does it make you feel that Jesus died in your place, making peace with God possible? Was Jesus' decision to offer His life for you a result of anything that you did?

How are you able to play a role in God's redemptive plan for all of the world? What are you doing to take part in that plan this week?

DISCUSSION

Who is someone in your life that needs prayer?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for being so good to me that You would want to free me of my sin. Thank You, Jesus, for experiencing my punishment once and for all so that I could be counted righteous. Help me to live the new life that You made possible through your death—free and victorious.

I want my life to be about You and Your glory. Only You can save anyone from the punishment of their sin. Use me as a part of Your redemptive plan for my friends, family, neighbors, community, and the world. Give me opportunities to talk about You, wisdom to see those opportunities, and boldness to share the gospel.

Thank You that through Jesus, I can be called a child of God. Amen.