

Four Great Thoughts on Romans

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I. Introduction.

- A. The topic really addresses four great words.
- B. Reasons for doing this: every revival in history is the result of teaching the book of Romans.
- C. Our ability to follow Christ is sustained by knowledge. (John 8:32)
- D. The most de-motivating factors in the Christian life are unjustified feelings of inadequacy and feelings of guilt.

II. Propitiation. (Romans 3:25)

- A. Meaning: God has turned the judgment seat into a mercy seat.
- B. It also means that there is no charge pending against any Christian in the courtroom of heaven.
- C. Once we have been washed in regeneration it never needs to happen again. But there is a continuing process as we confess and forsake our sin because we still collect “dirt.” (John 13)
- D. Regeneration, confession, and no charge pending—they must be combined. (1 John 2)
- E. We must all stand before the judgment seat—in Grecian athletic events, the one presiding over this event determined what rewards would be handed out. The “bema” judgment is not to punish sinners, but to reward believers. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

III. Impute. (Romans 4:3, 8, 22)

- A. Something that God does by judicial decree. God says it is so and from that point it is so.
- B. God has imputed the righteousness of His Son to every believer. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

IV. Justification. (Romans 5:1)

- A. We have peace with God through our justification.
- B. God finds that we were never guilty in the first place—there is a difference between a pardoned citizen and a justified one.
- C. God blots out of His memory of our sins. (Hebrews 10:17)
 - 1. In adding up the time between the events mentioned in this text there is not 480 years as claimed in this verse. (1 Kings 6:1)
 - 2. The reason that it does not add up is because God did not include in those years the years of disobedience in Judges. This comes up with the correct number. (Psalm 81:2)

3. God takes our record of history and blots out the areas where we failed.

D. While some may fear that this could be a de-motivator, the most motivated man in history wrote this. These truths are motivating as we see how God has dealt with guilt through the provision of Christ.

E. When we are not motivated we are nursing a wounded ego, not nurturing what we know is true.

V. Reckon. (Romans 6:11)

A. This is an accounting term.

B. We are dead to the obligation to sin, but not the inclination to sin. (Matthew 5:42)

C. The last part of the verse is important. We cannot consider ourselves dead unless we call upon the resources of Christ to live anew. We are to recognize His power and to make use of it.

D. We sin because we ignore the resources of God.

E. God has done a pretty good job of dealing with guilt, but salvation is more than forgiveness.

VI. Conclusion.

A. These are motivating factors and liberating truths.

B. The doctrine of instantaneous restoration teaches that when we sin and intend never to do that again, he restores us immediately. God is the God of the present intention and meets us where we are at in that regard.

Application questions.

1. Explain the four “words” in Romans in your own words. Which one stands out to you?

2. What does it mean that God in justifying us, no longer remembers our sins? How is freedom from guilt a motivating factor?

3. What truths have or are shaping your view of God’s work through Jesus Christ? Which does this teach us about God? What attitudes and thoughts should this change in us?
