



WHO CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT? ROM 3:1-20

Introduction:

- Humanity's longing for a *worthy hero* runs deep
- The same question drives the Gospel: Who is worthy? Who can make things right?

1. Context Recap

- Romans 1–2:
 - *Gentiles*: guilty in rebellion without the law.
 - *Jews*: guilty despite having the law and covenant signs.
- Raises key questions:
 - Has God's covenant failed?
 - Is God unfaithful to His promises?
 - If everyone—Jew and Gentile alike—is unrighteous, who can make things right?

2. Jewish Advantage — Mission, Not Salvation (3:1–2)

- Advantage of being Jewish = *entrusted with the words of God* ("the oracles of God").
- Israel's calling: to be a **light to the nations**, a **kingdom of priests, agents of blessing** (Gen 12; Ex 19; Isa 42, 49).
- The problem: Israel failed to live out that mission.
- Application: We too must repent of failing to embody God's mission even while being blessed by His Word.

3. God's Faithfulness Despite Human Faithlessness (3:3–8)

- Human failure doesn't nullify God's faithfulness.
 - "Let God be true, and every human a liar." (Ps 51:4)

- Even David, Israel's hero, stood condemned and in need of mercy.
- Objections: "If our sin reveals God's righteousness, why not sin more?"
 - *Answer*: God's justice isn't compromised by human logic.
 - The ends never justify the means. Sin never produces righteousness.
- **Illustration**: A diamond shines brightest on black velvet — but the velvet isn't the hero. Our sin highlights God's glory, yet we remain accountable.

4. The Universal Power of Sin (3:9–20)

- "There is no one righteous, not even one."
- Sin is not just bad behavior — it's a **power** that rules over humanity.
- Paul quotes Psalms and Isaiah to describe universal corruption:
 1. No one seeks God.
 2. Mouths full of deceit and curses.
 3. Feet swift to violence.
 4. No fear of God before their eyes.
- The **Law** cannot save — it only exposes sin and silences excuses.

5. Conclusion — Only the Worthy One

- Humanity is hopelessly off-course; no one can make things right.
- Revelation 5 mirrors this despair: "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" None found — until the **Lamb** appears.
- The **Lamb of God** (Jesus) is worthy because He was slain, redeeming all nations and fulfilling Israel's failed mission.
- What the Law could not do, **Christ accomplishes** through His faithfulness.
- Application:
 - Remember your calling in God's mission.
 - Rest in God's faithfulness when you are faithless.
 - Rejoice that the Worthy One — Jesus — is making you new.

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is your favourite hero and why? (From a movie, book, story of some kind)
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. Paul insists that human unfaithfulness doesn't cancel out God's faithfulness (v.3–4). How have you personally seen God remain faithful despite human failure — in your life, church, or community?
2. Paul speaks of sin not just as individual wrong actions, but as a ruling power that enslaves humanity. How might this view reshape how we think about morality, justice, or even social systems today?
3. Paul says the Law's purpose is to "silence every mouth" and show the world's guilt (v.19–20). What is the difference between the Law as a mirror (revealing sin) versus the Law as a ladder (earning righteousness)? How does confusing the two affect our spiritual life or church culture?
4. In Revelation 5, only the Lamb is found worthy to open the scroll. What does it mean for *you personally* that Christ alone is worthy — not just to save the world, but to "make things right" in your life, relationships, and community?

Practice of the Week:

1. Name What's Broken

- Begin by identifying **one area** in your life or world that feels *not right* — something broken, unjust, or heavy.
 - It could be personal (a strained relationship, fear, guilt) or broader (injustice, conflict, loss).
- Write it down and pray:
"Jesus, I see what's not right. I can't fix it on my own. Show me how You are making it right."

2. Reflect and Rejoice

- Read **Revelation 5:9–10** aloud:
"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain... You have ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and nation."
- Reflect on one area of your life where you've seen Christ's worthiness at work — where His faithfulness met your weakness.
- Write a short note or journal entry of gratitude: "Here's where the Worthy One made something right this week."

Goal:

To let go of the pressure to be your own savior, and instead live in quiet confidence that the **Lamb who is worthy** is already making all things right — beginning with you.