

## CEC Bible Study: Romans

Session 3: Romans 1 - 3  
Aug. 19, 2020  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Cape Girardeau, MO

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### Group Introductions

- Any newcomers?
- Recap of previous week(s)
  - Discussion Notes: [Week 1](#); [Week 2](#)

Opening Question: Who Gets to Claim Ownership of the Title “People of God”?

### Romans 1: Introducing the Letter

- Salutation ([1:1–7](#))
- Thanksgiving ([1:8–15](#))
- Body of the Letter ([1:16ff](#))
  - “I am not ashamed of the Gospel”: The thesis to Paul’s letter ([1:16–17](#))
    - “The one who is righteous will live by faith(fulness)”—cf. [Hab. 2:4](#)
  - The Origins of Gentile Lawlessness and Idolatry ([1:18–32](#))
- Dispensing with a so-called “clobber passage” ([Rom. 1:26–27](#))

### Romans 2: God’s Judgment Is Over All

- The Relationship between God’s Righteous Judgment and the Law ([2:6–16](#))
- Against Hypocrisy ([2:17–24](#))
  - A warning to 21<sup>st</sup>-century American Christians
    - “You that boast in the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? For, as it is written, ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the gentiles because of you’” ([2:23–24](#))
- The Value of Circumcision ([2:25–29](#))
  - Why are circumcision and other “works of the Torah” important?
    - **They distinguish a person’s belonging among the People of God**

### Romans 3: The Revelation of Jesus Christ and Its Consequences for Jews and Gentiles Alike

- The Advantage of Israel ([3:1–8](#))
- All are under “the Power of Sin” ([3:9–18](#))
- The Apocalyptic Paul
  - ἀποκάλυψις (apocalypsis) = “Unveiling” or “Revealing”
  - A New Revelation: “The righteousness of God has been disclosed...” ([3:21–22](#))
- The Content and Consequences of this New Revelation ([3:22–31](#))
- What has this “Revelation” done to the Law and those under it?
- Paul’s Understanding: “A person is justified by faith(fulness) apart from the works prescribed by the Law (i.e. circumcision, kosher diet, Sabbath observance, etc.)” ([3:28](#))