

A Walk Down The Romans Road

Sunday, March 8, 2026

10:30 AM

Encountering The Truths of The Book of Romans

Chapter 3 – Jesus, Our Atoning Sacrifice

Romans 3

3 What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2 Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.

3 What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? 4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written:

“So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.” Psalm 51:4

5 But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) 6 Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? 7 Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?” 8 Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—“Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is just!

No One Is Righteous

9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Eccles. 7:20

13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” Psalm 5:9 Psalm 140:3

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” Psalm 10:7

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know.” Isaiah 59:7,8

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Psalm 36:1

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Righteousness Through Faith

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. 28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, 30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. 31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Paul continues to make his case, as he did in chapters 1 and 2; that whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, We all are guilty of sin and cannot through our own efforts, cleanse ourselves from that sin. We are guilty in God's eyes, no matter how much religion we may have practiced or not practiced. And as he will say in Romans 6:23, we are all deserving of death or eternal separation from God

But what I want to focus in on here is Paul's declaration of God's solution to that impossible problem.

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

Let's start with this discussion... What is a sacrifice of atonement? ...

The word atonement, in the Old Testament, is a translation of various forms of the word kaphar. It literally means "to cover." Its usage in Scripture is not always literal,

however, and the word has a further theological meaning associated with appeasement, ransom, and forgiveness.

The word *kaphar* first appears in the Bible in a literal context: God instructs Noah to build the ark “and cover it inside and out with pitch” ([Genesis 6:14, ESV](#)). The word translated “and cover” is a form of the Hebrew word *kaphar*. The waterproof “covering” of the ark would seal out the flood water. Noah and his family were preserved from judgment by the “atonement” of the ark.

Biblically, atonement refers to the process by which sin is covered, cleansed, or paid for, making possible a renewed relationship with God. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *kippur* means “to cover,” “to make reconciliation,” or “to purify,” and is the root of the term *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement [59](#).

As a theological word, atonement is often used today as an all-inclusive, **generic term for all that Christ’s death accomplished.** In this sense, atonement includes the acts of forgiveness, justification, adoption, redemption and reconciliation.

The Nature of Christ’s Atonement

- **Substitution:** Jesus died in the place of sinners, bearing the punishment they deserved (Isaiah 53:5–6; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- **Propitiation:** His sacrifice satisfied God’s righteous anger against sin (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2).
- **Redemption:** Jesus’ blood “purchased” believers out of slavery to sin (Ephesians 1:7).
- **Reconciliation:** The atonement restores the broken relationship between God and humanity (Romans 5:10–11).

His atoning sacrifice covers us from God's wrath against sin and restores us to right relationship with God

1 John 2:2

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is what Paul was speaking about in Romans 3 - But now, since today is Palm Sunday, I want to go into a little more detail about Christ, our atoning sacrifice, or Christ our Passover Lamb.

I think most of us are aware that Jesus' crucifixion took place on Passover or more specifically right before the Feast of Passover (also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread).

This feast held its significance because of its institution when God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. The final plague, which would break the stronghold of the Egyptians over the people of God, was the killing of the firstborn. God's protection from that death was to take a lamb on the 10th of Nissan, slaughter it at twilight on the 14th of Nissan, apply its blood to the doorposts of each house that wanted protection, and then eat the lamb. The next day - the 15th of Nissan, the Israelites would leave Egypt - since they did not have time to make bread with yeast and let it rise, they made unleavened bread and so the feast of unleavened bread - which begins on the 15th and was celebrated for 7 days - commemorating this event.

Exodus 11:4-6

4 So Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.

Exodus 12:3

3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.

Exodus 12:5-8

5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

Now what does this all have to do with Jesus being our atoning sacrifice

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Paul speaks of the two parts of the Old Testament festival and relates them to the two parts of our Christian life.

1. The sacrifice and the blood which led them (and us) to be able
2. To come out and walk in a new life - one without sin (leaven) - and one with a new destination

So, let's see how God worked every detail together to fulfill what he had foreshadowed with the Passover Lamb in the Old Testament with THE PASSOVER LAMB JESUS in the New Testament.

Let's start with what we know...

All four Gospel writers declare that - Jesus rose on the first day of the week - That's Sunday

Matthew 28:1

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

Remember - The Jewish day begins and ends at Sunset - not at midnight

So, the sabbath ended (Sunset on Saturday as it was turning to Sunday). But the women couldn't go at night, so they waited until Sunday Morning, very early. All four Gospel writers say it was very early and John gives us the added description that it was still dark when they went to the Tomb.

Now some would have you believe that Jesus was crucified on Friday (because the scriptures say they had to get him down off the cross before sunset because the Sabbath was starting). But if this were true that would mean that Jesus would have been crucified on Friday just before sunset. As the sun set the Sabbath would have begun (and lasted for 24 hours – 1 day – Saturday. and then the very next day (Sunday), Jesus rose and they went to the Tomb.

There are two problems with this...

Matthew 12:39-40

39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (no matter how hard you try you can not get three days and three nights out of the timeline that Jesus died on a Friday and rose on Sunday)

Mark 16:1

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. (Can't be the same day they went to look at the tomb so it must be speaking of a different Sabbath)

Luke 23:56

56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

There were two Sabbath's within a day of each other when Jesus was in the Tomb...

1. The High Sabbath of the first day of The Feast of Unleavened Bread (The 15th of Nissan)
2. The Weekly Sabbath that began on Friday Evening as it turned to Saturday and ended on Saturday evening as it turned Sunday.

So, the ladies went home after Jesus was placed in the Tomb and rested on the 15th of Nissan - the High Sabbath. When it was over - sometime during the day of the 16th of Nissan they went out and bought spices, came home prepared them and then rested on the regular sabbath (the 17th of Nissan).

Day wise it would fall like this...

Jesus was crucified - between the evenings - on the 14th of Nissan (a Wednesday before it turned to Thursday) He was placed in the tomb before the beginning of the High Sabbath (the 15th - Thursday) was in the tomb for the 15th (Thursday), 16th (Friday) and 17th (Saturday) and rose from the dead after sunset on the 17th or the 18th (Sunday - the first day of the week)

But for even more clarity, let's look at one more day that we know for sure.

John 12:1-3, 12

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. **3** Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

So 6 days before Passover (which count it back would be the 9th of Nissan) Jesus came to Behtany... The next day (The 10th of Nissan) Jesus entered Jerusalem on what we traditionally call Palm Sunday... And what else do we know happened on the 10th of Nissan...

The selection of The Passover Lamb

But it wasn't Sunday, it would have been Saturday. (Again, count back the days from what we have already established. The feast of unleavened bread began on Thursday the 15th. This would put the 10th on a Saturday. Now I hear some saying - if it was Saturday, it would be a sabbath - and you are right... The 10th of Nissan that year would have been a regular Sabbath - however provision was made for being able to select the Lamb on a Sabbath day as that would occur every so many years.

Christ came into Jerusalem on Saturday (was chosen as the Passover Lamb) without people even knowing what they were doing. Four days later he was crucified.

The gospels give us even more details about the day and timing of His crucifixion. Matthew, Mark Luke and John testify that he was taken away to be crucified about the 3rd hour (this would be about 9:00 am as the reckoning for time began at sunrise or about 6:00 am). We are also told that darkness covered the earth from the 6th to the 9th hour (or about noon to 3 pm). And around 3 pm Jesus breathed his last, was confirmed to be dead and shortly after removed from the cross and placed in a tomb as that all had to happen before sunset and the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened bread. This was the very time frame that people were bringing their Passover lambs to the priests at the temple to be sacrificed (between the evenings on the 14th) so that they could eat the Passover lamb that night (the night of the 14th – 15th) just as they would have done centuries earlier when the death angel passed over Egypt and they left Egypt the next morning (the 15th)

So, four days after being chosen as The Passover Lamb, on the evening of the 14th at the same time the Passover lambs were being sacrificed; Jesus blood was shed on the cross - the atonement for our sins (The substitution for our sins, The propitiation for our sins, the Redemption from our sins, and the reconciliation that restores us to right relationship with God) – And Paul says all of this is received by faith.

My question is... Do you believe that Jesus is your Passover Lamb, sacrificed to make atonement for you? And have you applied the blood of that sacrifice to the doorposts of your heart by faith?

Romans 3:23-25a

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.