



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHEN IN ROMANS

Atonement

Romans 3:21-26

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood."

Romans 3:23-25

In chapter 3, Paul explains how we are ultimately justified by faith apart from the law, but that we must not totally disregard the law, because it is through the law that we become conscious of our sin. Because sin causes havoc and wrecks lives, God doesn't simply sweep sin and injustice under the rug, saying "don't worry about it." Instead, he makes a sacrifice of atonement of His son, demonstrating His great love for us and showing us how much our sin really matters.

*Paul explains the fine line between upholding the law and how we are ultimately justified through our faith in Jesus Christ. "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law.." **Romans 3:20a***

Discuss the important points about Christianity that Paul does not want us to forget, and how this is not unlike packing for a trip, when we want to bring only the right things!

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, helps us to understand the magnitude of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It occurred after the 10 days of reflection and repentance during Rosh Hashanah. It was on this Day of Atonement that a goat was presented by the Chief Priest with the sins of the people confessed upon it, then it was led away into the wilderness. This is where we get the term "scapegoat," of which Jesus is the ultimate one--taking the sins of the world on His back and carrying them away.

Discuss why this truth is a reason to rejoice, and as Thomas says, not another time to create action steps.

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us enough to redeem us through the atoning sacrifice of your Son, Jesus. Help us to live freely in this truth, and to celebrate it as we share your love and patience with others, spreading the message of the gospel. Amen.