

THE PLAN OF GOD

ROMANS PART 3

06/07/2026 | Pastor Devon Patterson

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever won a prize you did nothing to earn?

READ: Romans 10:1-10

FOCUS: We are made right with God not by passion, proximity, or performance, but by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.

OBSERVE:

- Israel had zeal for God but not according to knowledge. Passion for God without correct information about God still leads to separation from God. Proximity to God doesn't necessarily mean proper knowledge of God.
- Seeking to establish a righteousness of our own leads to a performance-based relationship where we either never feel enough for God, or God is never enough for us. Even our best deeds, apart from Christ, are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).
- Christ is the end (the goal) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. To confess Jesus as Lord is to speak the same thing God speaks about him – an inner trust that expresses itself in outward allegiance, even when it costs us.

DISCUSS:

- What stood out to you as you listened to the sermon and/or discussed this study guide? Are you willing to share your thoughts with others?
- Where have you been tempted to substitute passion, church involvement, or good behavior for actually being right with God?
- What does it look like in your life right now to live on the treadmill of performance? How does the truth of the "final verdict" through Christ free you from that cycle?
- In what specific area of your life – relationships, finances, sexuality, work, community – is Jesus asking to be Lord? What might confession cost you there?

TAKE ACTION:

- If you have never confessed Jesus as Lord, do so today. Tell someone in your Life Group or a church leader so they can walk with you in your next steps.
- Identify one area where you've been trying to earn God's approval and bring it under the lordship of Jesus this week.
- Practice confession in community. Rather than hiding in shame, run to God for mercy and to trusted believers for support.

PRAY: *Lord, thank you that we don't have to climb a moral ladder to reach you – you sent Jesus to lift us up. Forgive us for the times we've trusted in our zeal, our church attendance, or our good behavior instead of in your Son. We confess that Jesus is Lord, and we believe in our hearts that you raised him from the dead. Let the final verdict of your grace shape every part of how we live. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*