

Crossroads Baptist Church
June 18, 2006 10:00
Romans 3: 21-31
Romans #14

“I Throw Myself On the Mercy of the Court”

I go into court with my one ticket that I am protesting. The judge says that he would be glad to consider my request but his records show that I have 1, 322 such tickets outstanding and he is ready to throw the book at me. I then throw myself at the mercy of the court.

As we considered two Sundays ago,
If you lived to be 70 years old and committed one sin a day; starting at age eight – you would commit 22,630 sins.
If you are really a great person and only committed one sin a week, at the same ages, you would commit 3, 224 sins.

So indeed, Paul’s conclusion in verse 23 is more than true: “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

The major fault with the judge illustration is that Judge would be more inclined to have mercy on me because he himself is a breaker of the law. But what about standing before God who has never broken a law and stand there with 3, 224 or more sins. What chance do I have?

So, I just need to throw myself on the mercy of the court? But is there such a thing with God? OH YES!!

I. There was a mercy seat in the Temple – it was a place.

The word here rendered “propitiation” is the same word in Hebrews 9:5 rendered “mercy seat.” The word “mercy seat” is found 23 times in the Bible with 22 of those times in the Old Testament and 16 of those times in Exodus where the instructions for the Tabernacle are given. Look at Exodus 25:17-22.

A. Purity of the place.

It was of pure gold.

B. Protection of the place.

There were two cherubims (angels) made at each end stretching out their wings above the mercy seat with their faces looking down at the mercy seat continually.

C. Preeminence of the place.

The mercy seat was placed on top of the ark which contained the Ten Commandments.

D. Promise of the place

God promises to meet them there between the two angels and to speak to them there.

E. Position of the place

The mercy seat was placed just inside the veil. It was out of public view and only accessible to Aaron and the high priest.

F. Purpose of the place

Exodus 30: 7-10 Aaron was to burn incense on the seat which would create a cloud which was the glory of God resting over the mercy seat.

Then he would make sacrifices at the altar plus the one sacrifice once a year making atonement for the sins of the people. Then according to Leviticus 16, he would sprinkle blood on the mercy seat seven times with his finger. He did this with bull and the goat, so there was blood visible on the golden mercy seat. It was a place sprinkled with blood. It was the place of atonement.

So the mercy seat was the place over the law sprinkled with blood where the blood took precedent over the law.

II. There is a mercy seat in Heaven – it is a person.

According to Hebrews 8, the Tabernacle was constructed according to the heavenly pattern in Heaven.

In Hebrews 9: 22-26, we see that Jesus was the sacrifice and His blood is sprinkled on the mercy seat in Heaven. He did not do this yearly or often, but once.

A. Purity of the person.

He was virgin born and no guile was found in his mouth.

B. Protection of the person.

Angels announced His birth and ministered to Him throughout His life. He could have called ten thousand angels to have rescued Him on the cross, but He chose not to. For Jesus to have been saved meant we would be lost.

C. Preeminence of the person.

The mercy seat was placed on top of the ark which contained the Ten Commandments. Faith in Jesus Christ and His blood is higher than the ten commandments and living by the law.

D. Promise of the person

He will forgive our sins

Eph 1:7, In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace NIV

Eph. 2:13 NIV But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Rom 5:9 (NLT) And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment.

Col 1:20 (NLT) and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross.

E. Position of the person

No one can enter the presence of God without blood.

F. Purpose of the person

To save us from our sins.

In closing, look at verse 25 again of Romans 3. Who did this? God did. Not man, but God.