



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Minot, ND
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The Epistle of Romans

The Justification of the Ungodly

Chapter 10 Verses 4-8

What kind of Old Testament do we read? This is the question that Paul is raising in this section of Scripture. That is to say, either we read the Old Testament with its end in Christ or we don't.

Way too often, well-meaning Christians disconnect the Old Testament from the New Testament by missing Christ. Christ is the telos of the Torah; Jesus is the end result, the target, the end of the Old Testament.

Perhaps nothing captures Paul's argument better than an introduction to a children's Bible. In Sally Lloyd-Jones' "The Jesus Storybook," she states,

"Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done.

Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some

heroes in it, but most other people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose). They get afraid and run away. At times they are downright mean.

No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a story. It's an adventure story about a young hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave prince who leaves his palace, his throne – everything – to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of fairytales that has come true in real life!

You see, the best thing about this story is – it's true.

There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one big story. The story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them.

It takes the whole Bible to tell the story. And at the center of the story, there is a baby. Every story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in

a puzzle – the peace that makes all the other pieces fit together, and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture.

And this is no ordinary baby. This is the child upon whom everything would depend. This is the child who one day – but wait. Our story starts where all good story start. Writer the very beginning...”

Take a moment and consult the attachment titled, “Guidelines for Interpreting the Old Testament.”

Once finished, consider the following verses and how they demonstrate a Christocentric Interpretive Lens of the New Testament:

- And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)

- Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (Luke 24:44-47)

- Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:45)

- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, (John 5:39)

- For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. (John 5:46)

- And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:34-35)

- To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:43)

- And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." (Acts 17:2-3)

- From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. (Acts 28:23)



