

ROMANS 13 – 3:21-26

The Righteousness of God

1. 3:19-20

- a. Function of the law = knowledge of sin - 1 Cor 15:56; but penitence can not save
- b. Deeds can't justify; then what can? - Gal 2:16, 3:10-12

2. 3:21

- a. *"But now"* – important transition words, a change occurs between then and now
- b. *"righteousness of God"* – the same righteousness that condemns all can save all
- c. *"without the law"* – God's righteousness before was seen only through the law
- d. His righteousness now manifested in the person and work of Christ by faith
- e. *"witnessed by the law and prophets"* – Rom 1:17, of faith and Jesus Christ
- f. How could man be just with God? – Jer 23:6, Isa 1:18, Isa 43:24-25

3. 3:22-23

- a. *"by faith of Jesus Christ"* – not by our works, but rather 1 Cor 15:1-4, Rom 4:25
- b. *"unto all"* because all were guilty, all were dead – see also Rom 11:32, 2 Cor 5:14
- c. *"upon all that believe"* – Righteousness is imputed only to those of faith
- d. *"no difference"* between Jew and Gentile, we're all guilty – Rom 3:9, 19, 1:16
- e. *"all have sinned"* – which is why it is offered to all by faith and not works
- f. *"come short ..."* which no man has, or boasts before God- Jer 9:23-24; 1 Cor 1:29-31
- g. Creation is to show God's glory – Psa 19:1; Rom 1:21; 1 Cor 10:31; Phil 2:11

4. 3:24-25

- a. *"being justified"* – from sin unto the righteousness of God upon believers
 - i. *Justified* – We are not righteous, God is, Christ is, we are in Christ
- b. Freely because all have sinned. No one can earn justification, even in time past.
- c. *"freely"* - what makes Paul's teaching so different than Jam 4:6, 1Pet 5:5, Pro 3:34
- d. *"by his grace"* – Grace is what provides justification, not obeying the law
- e. God gives grace to all men at all times, on his terms – Exo 33:19, Psa 84:11, 116:5
- f. Israel will pray to God to receive them graciously- Hos 14:2, Acts 15:11, 1 Pet 1:13
- g. The New Testament was a gracious provision – John 1:17; Heb 10:29, 12:15
- h. *"through the redemption..."* - a legal statement that *Jesus Paid It All* (ransom)
- i. *"faith in his blood"* – The object of the faith in verses such as 1 Cor 2:2 and 15:3-4
- j. This blood was what was required by the new covenant – Mat 26:28, Heb 9:22
- k. *"remission of sins that are past"* – which deals with forgiveness in the OT - Heb 9:16
- l. Israel has no more sacrifice Heb 10:26, and today sins are not imputed 2 Cor 5:19

5. 3:26

- a. *"at this time"* – Paul emphasizes the timing of God's revelations/dispensations
- b. *"God's righteousness"* – not our own righteousness, which is none – Rom 1:16-17
- c. *"just and the justifier"* – He is righteous to judge and to justify sinners – Gen 18:25

Definition of Salvation Terms

Justification – Standing in a righteous position. To declare or reckon righteous. In salvation we must be justified in order to be saved since sinners are all guilty before God.

Redemption – To repurchase, deliver, or liberate captive things; to make free. We are delivered from the power of sin purchased with the blood of Christ.

Propitiation - The sacrifice made for atonement. Christ was the propitiation for our sins, and to reconcile us to God.

Atonement - Satisfaction for sins through a just sacrifice/suffering. Atonement includes both the sacrifice required to make amends and the condition of reconciliation that results.

Remission - To pardon an offender, to overlook an offense, removal of a debt. Forgiveness. We are forgiven of our sins by God by our faith in the blood of Christ.

Reconciliation – To renew or unite in friendship after enmity, to settle a disagreement.

Imputation – To charge or attribute onto the account of another. God is not imputing trespasses to the world since the world during the age in which God is at peace with the world. Righteousness is imputed unto us by faith when we believe in Christ's atoning work (2 Cor 5:21).

Sanctification – Being set apart unto God's purpose. Our separation from the world and unto God is accomplished by Christ on the cross (Gal 6:14, 1 Cor 1:30).

Regeneration – A new creation. In salvation our old man is crucified and we are made alive in Christ by resurrection. Members of Christ are made a new creature in (2 Cor 5:17).

Grace – Unearned kindness and favor of God (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 11:6).

Faith – Belief in the word of God (Rom 10:17, Heb 11:1).