

# **ROMANS 3:21-31**

## **RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH**

**FOR THE PAST TWO AND A HALF CHAPTERS WE HAVE HEARD THE APOSTLE PAUL EXPOUND IN GREAT DETAIL ON THE SINFUL NATURE OF MAN.**

**WE HAVE HEARD HIM BOLDLY PROCLAIM THAT MAN IS INHERENTLY SINFUL AND DESTITUTE.**

**HE HAS GONE TO GREAT EXTENT TO EXPLAIN THE LAW AND THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW.**

**HE HAS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF GOD INTO OUR LIVES WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO HOPE WHATSOEVER.**

**HE HAS GIVEN WARNINGS TO BOTH THE BELIEVER AND NON-BELIEVER.**

**WE HAVE HEARD THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNREPENTANT SIN.**

**WE HAVE HEARD THAT GOD HAS LEFT MAN WITHOUT EXCUSE WHEN IT COMES TO KNOWING WHO HE IS.**

**PAUL HAS SPENT THE LAST 2 CHAPTERS TRYING TO GUIDE US TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.**

**THE LAST SECTION OF CHAPTER 3 STARTS WITH A WORD THAT GIVES HOPE, IT OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LIFESTYLE THAT GOD CONDEMNS.**

**A THREE-LETTER WORD THAT OPENS THE DOOR FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION.**

**THE WORD BUT....**

**WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE DANGERS, NOW PAUL SHIFTS TO WHAT CAN SAVE US FOR THOSE DANGERS.**

**PAUL'S GOSPEL PRESENTATION STARTING IN CHAPTER 1 STARTED WITH THE FACT THAT THE WRATH OF GOD WILL BE POURED OUT UPON THE UNRIGHTEOUS.**

**NOW PAUL IS GOING TO BEGIN HIS EXPLANATION ON HOW WE CAN BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS AND THEREBY BE SPARED FROM THE WRATH OF GOD.**

**NOTICE I DIDN'T SAY HOW WE CAN BECOME RIGHTEOUS.**

**THERE'S A DIFFERENCE IN BEING RIGHTEOUS AND BEING DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.**

**AS PASTOR BO TAUGHT US LAST WEEK "THERE ARE NONE WHO ARE RIGHTEOUS NOT EVEN ONE"**

**SO, IN OUR FALLEN NATURE WE CAN NEVER BE RIGHTEOUS.**

**WE CANNOT ATTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE WE ARE INCAPABLE.**

**UNLESS GOD INTERVENES AND REVEALS THE TRUTH TO US.**

**UNLESS HE REVEALS TO US THAT WE ARE TOTALLY DEPRAVED.**

**THAT WE ARE HORRIBLE WRETCHED SINNERS AND WE DESPERATELY NEED A SAVIOR.**

**AND THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US AND THAT IS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

***2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS 5:21***

***21 FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.***

**WE MAY ONLY BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS THROUGH CHRIST.**

**THIS IS THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION.**

**THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO BYPASS IT, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO EARN IT.**

WE CAN ONLY BE FOUND RIGHTEOUS BY OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

YOU SEE THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH DIDN'T START IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

IT STARTED IN THE BEGINNING.

ADAM AND EVES SON ABEL WAS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH.

**HEBREWS 11:4**

***4 BY FAITH ABEL OFFERED TO GOD A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE THAN CAIN, THROUGH WHICH HE OBTAINED WITNESS THAT HE WAS RIGHTEOUS, GOD TESTIFYING OF HIS GIFTS; AND THROUGH IT HE BEING DEAD STILL SPEAKS.***

ENOCH'S FAITH WAS SO GREAT THAT HE NEVER SAW DEATH

**HEBREWS 11:5,6**

***5 BY FAITH ENOCH WAS TAKEN AWAY SO THAT HE DID NOT SEE DEATH, "AND WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM"; FOR BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN HE HAD THIS TESTIMONY, THAT HE PLEASED GOD. 6 BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.***

NOAH WAS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.

**GENESIS 6:9**

***9 THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS OF NOAH. NOAH WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN, [E]BLAMELESS AMONG THOSE IN HIS GENERATIONS; NOAH WALKED WITH GOD.***

THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THE WORD RIGHTEOUS IS USED IN SCRIPTURE.

THEN WE HAVE ABRAHAM

**GENSIS 15:4-6**

***4 AND BEHOLD, THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO HIM, SAYING, "THIS ONE SHALL NOT BE YOUR HEIR, BUT ONE WHO WILL COME FROM YOUR OWN BODY SHALL BE YOUR HEIR." 5 THEN HE BROUGHT HIM OUTSIDE AND SAID, "LOOK NOW TOWARD HEAVEN, AND COUNT THE STARS IF YOU ARE ABLE TO NUMBER THEM." AND HE SAID TO HIM, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." 6 AND HE BELIEVED IN THE LORD, AND HE ACCOUNTED IT TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.***

WE CAN ONLY BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS IF WE HAVE FAITH IN GOD.

TRUSTING THAT JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR.

**HEBREWS 11:1-3**

***NOW FAITH IS THE <sup>[A]</sup>SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE <sup>[B]</sup>EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. 2 FOR BY IT THE ELDERS OBTAINED A GOOD TESTIMONY. 3 BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE <sup>[C]</sup>WORLDS WERE FRAMED BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN WERE NOT MADE OF THINGS WHICH ARE VISIBLE.***

THIS TELLS WHAT FAITH IS, BUT WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

DO WE ACQUIRE FAITH BY RESEARCH?

DO WE EARN FAITH BY OBEYING THE LAW OF GOD?

**EPHESIANS 2:4-10**

***4 BUT GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, 5 EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED), 6 AND RAISED US UP TOGETHER, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS, 7 THAT IN THE AGES TO COME HE MIGHT SHOW THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US IN CHRIST JESUS. 8 FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, 9 NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANYONE SHOULD BOAST. 10 FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.***

**WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS ON ACCOUNT OF FAITH WHICH IS A GIFT FROM GOD!**

**THIS IS A DEFINITIVE TRUTH.**

**AS HUMANS WE WANT TO BE IN CONTROL.**

**WE WANT TO HAVE THE FINAL SAY.**

**WE WANT TO BE THE ONE THAT DICTATES OUR LIFE.**

**BUT AS CHRISTIANS WE KNOW THAT JUST ISN'T HOW IT WORKS.**

**WE KNOW THAT WE MUST SUBMIT OUR LIVES TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**FORSAKING THIS WORLD AND THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD TO FOLLOW HIM.**

**AS WE JUST READ IN EPHESIANS WE WERE CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, BEFOREHAND THAT WE MAY WALK IN THEM.**

**THIS MEANS THAT BEFORE THE EARTH WAS EVER CREATED GOD HAD ALREADY PLANNED OUT HOW HE WOULD PROVIDE US OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR LORD.**

**THIS IS ANOTHER WAY HE IS TELLING US THAT OUR WORKS AREN'T WHAT SAVES US, THEY WEREN'T EVEN OUR IDEA...**

**THEY ARE FRUIT OF OUR SALVATION.**

**PAUL ALSO SAYS IN EPHESIANS THAT WE WERE CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS.**

**WE HAVE TO REMEMBER AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION WE ARE A NEW CREATION.**

**NOT REBUILT BUT COMPLETELY RECREATED.**

ALL OF THIS TO BRING US TO THE TEXT FOR TODAY!

ROMANS 3:21-31

**ROMANS 3:21**

***21 BUT NOW APART <sup>[U]</sup>FROM THE LAW THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD HAS BEEN MANIFESTED, BEING WITNESSED BY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS,***

PAUL STARTS BY SAYING “BUT NOW”

THIS MEANS HE IS CHANGING HIS APPROACH TO THE MESSAGE HE IS TRYING TO CONVEY.

SO IN ORDER FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE SHIFT WE HAVE TO LOOK BACK A FEW VERSES

**ROMANS 3:19,20**

***19 NOW WE KNOW THAT WHATEVER THE LAW SAYS, IT SAYS TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED, AND ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME <sup>[E]</sup>GUILTY BEFORE GOD. 20 THEREFORE BY THE DEEDS OF THE LAW NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT, FOR BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN.***

WHO IS UNDER THE LAW?

THE UNREDEEMED. THE LOST.

AS WE DISCUSSED A FEW WEEKS AGO THE JEWS RECEIVED THE WRITTEN LAW THROUGH MOSES AND THE GENTILES HAD THE LAW OF GOD WRITTEN ON THEIR HEARTS SO THAT NO MAN IS WITHOUT EXCUSE.

WE KNOW FIRST-HAND THAT PERFECTLY KEEPING THE LAW IS IMPOSSIBLE WHICH IS WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR.

NOW IN VERSE 21 PAUL BEGINS HIS EXPLANATION ON HOW GOD PROVIDES THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION.

**ROMANS 3:21**

***21 BUT NOW APART  FROM THE LAW THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD HAS BEEN MANIFESTED, BEING WITNESSED BY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS,***

NOW, AFTER BACKING ALL OF SINFUL MANKIND INTO A CORNER, BOTH JEW AND GENTILE, IT'S AS IF THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE WRATH OF GOD.

HE TAKES US TO A PLACE WHERE WE REALIZE HOW HOPELESS WE ARE UNLESS GOD INTERVENES.

PAUL NOW BEGINS TO OPEN THE WINDOW OF DIVINE GRACE THAT LETS IN THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF SALVATION THAT GOD HIMSELF HAS PROVIDED.

SO HOW HAS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD BEEN MANIFESTED APART FROM THE LAW?

THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PERFECT LIFE.

**MATTHEW 5:17**

***“DO NOT THINK THAT I CAME TO ABOLISH THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS; I DID NOT COME TO ABOLISH BUT TO FULFILL.”***

JESUS FULFILLED THE LAW BY NEVER BREAKING IT.

HE ALSO FULFILLED ALL THE PROPHECIES GIVEN BY THE PROPHETS ABOUT THE MESSIAH.

BY PERFECTLY FULFILLING THE LAW JESUS WAS THE SPOTLESS LAMB OF GOD.

THE ONLY WORTHY SACRIFICE TO ATONE FOR THE SINS OF HIS FOLLOWERS.

AT THE END OF VERSE 21 PAUL WRITES “BEING WITNESSED BY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS”

THIS STATEMENT IS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT THE JEWS WHOSE WHOLE RELIGION CENTERED AROUND THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

THIS IS SIMPLY A REFERENCE TO THE OLD TESTAMENT.

IN OTHER WORDS, PAUL IS NOT SPEAKING ABOUT A NEW KIND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BUT ABOUT THE SAME DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT IS SPOKEN OF ALL THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT.

***ROMANS 3:22***

***22 EVEN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL THOSE I WHO BELIEVE; FOR THERE IS NO DISTINCTION;***

THE PERFECT SAVING RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS NOT RECEIVED BY LEGALISM BUT IS ACQUIRED ONLY BY FAITH IN HIS SON.

I KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW THERE ARE PEOPLE IN HERE DOUBTING THEMSELVES.

DOUBTING IF THEIR FAITH IS REAL “SAVING FAITH” SO LET’S TAKE A MINUTE TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

WHEN WE REALIZE THAT OUR FAITH ISN’T ABOUT ANYTHING WE’VE DONE IT CAN CREATE DOUBT.

“WELL, IF I’M NOT THE REASON I HAVE FAITH THEN HOW DO I KNOW MY FAITH IS REAL”

FIRST, I WOULD SAY I’M GLAD MY FAITH ISN’T DEPENDENT ON ME.

I WOULD MUCH RATHER GOD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FAITH INSTEAD OF IT BEING UP TO ME.

IF OUR FAITH WAS DEPENDENT ON US, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE FAITH.

AS PASTOR BO TAUGHT US LAST WEEK “FOR NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS NO NOT ONE.”



**“THERE IS NONE WHO SEEK FOR GOD, ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME WORTHLESS”**

**THIS IS WHO WE ARE WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF GOD.**

**WE HAVE TO REMEMBER GOD IS THE INITIATOR OF US SEEKING HIM.**

**HE HAS REVEALED HIMSELF THROUGH HIS LAW AND THE PROPHETS AS WELL THROUGH HIS CREATION.**

**IF YOU ARE HERE TODAY, HE IS REVEALING HIMSELF THROUGH THE PREACHING OF HIS WORD.**

**SO, IT IS A GOOD AND WONDERFUL THING THAT OUR FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD AND THAT CHRIST JESUS IS THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTOR OF OUR FAITH.**

**HE HAS INITIATED THAT PROCESS BY THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE TODAY.**

**I TRULY BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON THAT IS HERE IS HERE BY DIVINE APPOINTMENT.**

**SO, IF YOU DOUBT YOUR FAITH I ENCOURAGE TO EARNESTLY SEEK GOD.**

***HEBREWS 11:6***

***6 AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO DRAWS NEAR TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO SEEK HIM.***

**HOW WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT GOD REWARDS THOSE THAT SEEK HIM.**

**AND JAMES 4:8 SAYS GOD DRAWS NEAR TO THOSE THAT DRAW NEAR TO HIM.**

**AND HOW DO WE DO THAT?**

**HOW DO WE DRAW NEAR TO GOD?**

**BY SPENDING TIME IN HIS WORD, DILIGENTLY SEEKING HIS WILL IN OUR LIVES.**

**IF YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR FAITH THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF IS “AM I DRAWING NEAR TO GOD? AM I TRULY SEEKING HIM?”**

**KEEP IN MIND THIS DOESN'T INCLUDE THOSE THAT SEEK JUST ANY GOD.**

**THEY MUST BE SEEKING THE ONE TRUE GOD.**

**THERE ARE LOTS PEOPLE THAT ARE SEEKING THE WRONG GOD.**

**THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE SEEKING A GOD OF THEIR OWN MAKING.**

**ONE THAT ACCEPTS THEIR SIN AND WON'T PASS ETERNAL JUDGMENT ON THEM.**

**TO SEEK THOSE GODS WILL LEAD TO YOUR DESTRUCTION.**

**AND SEEKING GOD DOESN'T MEAN JUST COMING TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.**

**IT DOESN'T MEAN BEING LEGALISTIC TO TRY AND APPEASE HIM.**

**I THINK WE HAVE PROVEN BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT LEGALISM CAN'T SAVE YOU.**

**TO SEEK GOD MEANS TRULY SPENDING TIME IN HIS WORD AND IN PRAYER.**

**IT MEANS REMOVING THE THINGS FROM YOUR LIFE THAT DO NOT GLORIFY HIM.**

**WE TEND TO GET CAUGHT UP IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE AND NEGLECT THE FACT THAT WE ARE CALLED TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD SO THAT HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO US.**

WE GET SO FOCUSED ON THE TEMPORAL WE FORGET ABOUT THE ETERNAL.

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS...

TRAGEDY STRIKES AND WE FEEL SO DISCONNECTED FROM GOD BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T BEEN DRAWING NEAR TO HIM, WE HAVEN'T BEEN EARNESTLY SEEKING HIM.

JESUS MUST BE FIRST IN OUR LIVES.  
NOT JUST WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, BUT EVERY DAY.

**ROMANS 3:22**

***22 EVEN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL THOSE [\[J\]](#) WHO BELIEVE; FOR THERE IS NO DISTINCTION;***

PAUL ENDS VERSE 22 BY SAYING FOR THERE IS NO DISTINCTION...

NO DISTINCTION OF WHO?

WELL, WE WILL CLEARLY SEE WHO HE IS TALKING ABOUT IN VERSE 23

**ROMANS 3:23**

***23 FOR ALL [\[K\]](#) HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD,***

THERE IS NO DISTINCTION AMONG MANKIND, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US ARE GUILTY OF BREAKING GODS LAW.

EVERY ONE OF US ARE GUILTY OF SIN.

THERE IS ALSO NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE THAT ARE SAVED.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SIN WE ARE GUILTY OF, PROSTITUTION, THEFT, MURDER, FALSE TEACHER...

JESUS SAID IN JOHN 6:37 "THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL CERTAINLY NOT CAST OUT"

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU RECOGNIZED JESUS AS LORD OF YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU WERE 5 AND WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH HIM UNTIL YOUR DEATH OR IF THAT REVELATION CAME TO YOU ON YOUR DEATHBED.

BOTH OF THOSE PEOPLE WILL ENTER IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

***ROMANS 3:23***

***23 FOR ALL <sup>[K]</sup>HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD,***

NONE OF US CAN EVER ATTAIN THE GLORY OF GOD BECAUSE WE ARE ALL TAINTED BY SIN.

PAUL IS REITERATING EVERYTHING HE SAID IN CHAPTER 1 UP UNTIL THIS POINT.

NONE ARE RIGHTEOUS, NONE ARE WORTHY, ALL ARE GUILTY.

SOMETHING PEOPLE COME TO ME WITH QUITE OFTEN IS HOW TO ADDRESS THE FEELING OF BEING UNWORTHY.

THEY SAY THINGS LIKE "I JUST DON'T FEEL WORTHY OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME"

GUESS WHAT...

NONE OF US ARE WORTHY OR DESERVING OF WHAT JESUS DID ON THAT CROSS FOR US.

BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT US.

HE DIDN'T SACRIFICE HIS LIFE ON THE CROSS TO SAVE A WONDERFUL, INNOCENT GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT WERE WORTHY OF HIS SACRIFICE.

THE WHOLE REASON HE HAD TO DIE FOR US IS BECAUSE WE ARE SINFUL PEOPLE COMPLETELY UNWORTHY OF ETERNITY IN HEAVEN.

SO, FEELING UNWORTHY IS A GOOD THING.

THAT MEANS YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US.

THAT MEANS YOU FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE MAGNITUDE AND THE IMPACT OF HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

NOW FEELING UNWORTHY AND FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF ARE TWO TOTALLY DIFFERENT THINGS.

DON'T BE CONSUMED WITH SELF-PITY.

RECOGNIZE THAT NONE OF US ARE WORTHY, BE GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S GRACE THAT HAS BEEN POURED OUT OVER YOU BY REVEALING HIS SON TO YOU AND GLORIFY HIM BY HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE.

***ROMANS 3:24***

***24 BEING JUSTIFIED AS A GIFT BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS;***

IN VERSE 20 PAUL WRITES BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED.

SO WE KNOW THAT LAW CANNOT JUSTIFY US OR DECLARE US RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY TO KEEP IT.

NOW PAUL IS TELLING US HOW WE CAN BE JUSTIFIED.

BY WHAT MEANS WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.

HE GOES ON TO TELL US THAT GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT.

CAN YOU EARN A GIFT?

NO! A GIFT IS FREE THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT A GIFT.

WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

BOTH OF WHICH ARE FREE GIFTS FROM GOD.

**THE WAY WE ARE JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD IS THROUGH REDEMPTION IN CHRIST.**

**THE GREEK WORD FOR REDEMPTION MEANS TO PAY A RANSOM.**

**WE WERE ALL AT ONE-POINT PRISONERS OF OUR SIN.**

**HELD CAPTIVE BY OUR FLESH, CHAINED TO THE EVIL DESIRES OF OUR FALLEN NATURE.**

**DOOMED TO AN ETERNITY OF PUNISHMENT.**

**AND THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SET FREE IS IF JESUS HAS PAID OUR RANSOM.**

**WHICH IS WHAT HE DID ON THE CROSS.**

**THE WORD JUSTIFIED IS A LEGAL TERM, IT MEANS TO GO BEFORE A JUDGE AND BE FOUND INNOCENT.**

**WELL AS CHRISTIANS WE KNOW WE ARE GUILTY, BUT WHEN WE STAND BEFORE THE JUDGE WE ARE JUSTIFIED OR FOUND INNOCENT BECAUSE JESUS HAS ALREADY PAID THE DUE PENALTY FOR OUR CRIMES.**

***GALATIANS 2:5,6***

***<sup>5</sup> FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR ALSO BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS, <sup>6</sup> WHO GAVE HIMSELF AS A RANSOM FOR ALL, THE WITNESS FOR <sup>[b]</sup>THIS PROPER TIME.***

**JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER.**

**MAKE NO MISTAKE.**

**THERE ARE NOT MULTIPLE WAYS TO HEAVEN.**

**AND IT'S NOT A JESUS OF YOUR OWN MAKING, IT IS ONLY THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE.**

**HE MUST BE LORD OF YOUR LIFE, HE REQUIRES FULL SUBMISSION NOT PARTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE THAT WILL HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS YOU CLAIM WITH YOUR WORDS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD THEN THAT'S ALL IT TAKES.  
NO REPENTANCE NECESSARY.

IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN WHY DID JESUS SAY IN MARK 1:14,15

***MARK 1:14,15***

***<sup>14</sup> NOW AFTER JOHN HAD BEEN DELIVERED UP INTO CUSTODY, JESUS CAME INTO GALILEE, <sup>[H]</sup>PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF GOD, <sup>15</sup> AND SAYING, "THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD <sup>[I]</sup>IS AT HAND; REPENT AND <sup>[J]</sup>BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL."***

REPENT AND BELIEVE, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY A CALL ON US TO CHANGE.

TO TURN AWAY FROM OUR SINS AND HAVE FAITH IN JESUS.

IN FACT, THOSE ARE THE ONLY TWO REQUIREMENTS TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

FAITH AND REPENTANCE.

AND IF YOU HAVE THOSE TWO THINGS THEY WILL PRODUCE OBEDIENCE.

WITHOUT QUESTION AND WITHOUT FAIL.

***ROMANS 3:25***

***<sup>25</sup> WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A <sup>[L]</sup>PROPITIATION <sup>[M]</sup>IN HIS BLOOD THROUGH FAITH, FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, <sup>[N]</sup>BECAUSE IN THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD HE PASSED OVER THE SINS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED;***

OK WE'VE GOT A LOT TO UNPACK IN THIS VERSE.

SO WE'RE GOING TO BREAK IT UP INTO A FEW DIFFERENT SECTIONS.

**ROMANS 3:24,25A**

***<sup>24</sup> BEING JUSTIFIED AS A GIFT BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS; <sup>25</sup> WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A  PROPITIATION***

EVERY PERSON THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT CRUCIFIED THEY DID SO ON A THE SIDE OF A BUSY ROAD AS TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM.

AS IF TO SAY “THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE ROME”

JESUS’S CRUCIFIXION DIDN’T TAKE PLACE SECRETLY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS LIKE HIS MOCK TRIAL.

NO, HE WAS BEATEN AND DISPLAYED VERY OPENLY AND PUBLICLY ON THE CROSS, AND HE MOST LIKELY WOULD’VE BEEN COMPLETELY NAKED AS WAS THE ROMAN TRADITION.

THEY DIDN’T JUST WANT TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU, THEY WANTED TO HUMILIATE YOU IN THE PROCESS AS WELL.

THEY WANTED YOU TO DIE IN PAIN AND BEING OPENLY MOCKED AND RIDICULED AS TO QUELL OTHER POTENTIAL ENEMIES OF THE STATE FROM CAUSING ANY TROUBLE.

I THINK THAT’S ONE OF THE REASONS PUBLIC BAPTISMS IS SO IMPORTANT, JESUS WILLINGLY WENT TO THE CROSS AND DIED THAT AWFUL DEATH FOR THE WORLD TO SEE, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS MAKE A PUBLIC PROCLAMATION OF OUR DEVOTION TO HIM.

I ALSO THINK WE GIVE THE ROMANS TOO MUCH CREDIT SOMETIMES.

MEANING THAT ANYTHING THEY DID TO JESUS WAS BECAUSE HE ALLOWED IT.

VERSE 25 SAYS “WHO GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY”

NOT “WHO ROME DISPLAYED PUBLICLY”

MAKE NO MISTAKE THESE PEOPLE WERE INSTRUMENTS IN THE EXECUTION OF THE FATHERS WILL.



***ISAIAH 53:10***

***YET IT PLEASED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM; HE HAS PUT HIM TO GRIEF. WHEN YOU MAKE HIS SOUL AN OFFERING FOR SIN, HE SHALL SEE HIS SEED, HE SHALL PROLONG HIS DAYS, AND THE PLEASURE OF THE LORD SHALL PROSPER IN HIS HAND.***

**BEAR IN MIND THIS WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN FOR THE REDEMPTION OF MANKIND.**

**FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THE FATHER AND THE SON KNEW THAT ALL OF THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE.**

***ROMANS 3:25A***

***WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A  PROPITIATION***

**NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WORD PROPITIATION.**

**THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A WORD THAT IS IN OUR DAILY VOCABULARY.**

**IT IS A VERY INTERESTING WORD IN THAT IT USED A FEW DIFFERENT TIMES IN SCRIPTURE AND HOLDS A SIGNIFICANT MEANING.**

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IT ALWAYS REFERS TO THE WORK OF GOD.**

**IT MEANS TO SATISFY; JESUS WAS THE ONLY WORTHY SACRIFICE TO SATISFY THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT OF GOD.**

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THE WORD WAS USED IN REFERENCE TO THE MERCY SEAT ON THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.**

**WHERE THE HIGH PRIEST WENT ONCE A YEAR ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT TO MAKE A SACRIFICE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE.**

**HE WOULD SPRINKLE BLOOD ON THE MERCY SEAT WHICH SYMBOLIZED THE PAYMENT OF THE PENALTY FOR HIS SINS AND THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE.**

**BUT THAT ACT, ALTHOUGH DIVINELY APPOINTED AND HONORED BY GOD HAD NO POWER TO REMOVE OR PAY THE PENALTY FOR SIN.**

IT COULD ONLY POINT TO THE TRUE AND EFFECTIVE OFFERING OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ONCE FOR ALL, FOR BY ONE OFFERING HE HAS PERFECTED FOR ALL TIME THOSE WHO ARE SANCTIFIED.

***ROMANS 3:25A,B***

***25 WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A <sup>L</sup>PROPITIATION <sup>M</sup>IN HIS BLOOD THROUGH FAITH, FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,***

AS WE DISCUSSED THE WORD PROPITIATION MEANS TO SATISFY.

JESUS'S BLOOD SATISFIED THE DUE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN.

***1<sup>ST</sup> PETER 1:18,19***

***18 KNOWING THAT YOU WERE NOT <sup>Q</sup>REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS LIKE SILVER OR GOLD FROM YOUR FUTILE CONDUCT INHERITED FROM YOUR FOREFATHERS, 19 BUT WITH PRECIOUS BLOOD, AS OF A LAMB UNBLEMISHED AND SPOTLESS, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.***

WE ARE REDEEMED BY THE MOST PRECIOUS THING TO EVER EXIST.

THE PERFECT SPOTLESS BLOOD OF CHRIST, POURED OUT FOR OUR SINS.

THE BLOOD OF THE ETERNAL SON THAT SAW FIT TO PAY THE RANSOM FOR OUR SINS.

AND I'M SO GRATEFUL, I'M SO GRATEFUL THAT HE SAVED ME BECAUSE I WAS WITHOUT A DOUBT HEADED STRAIGHT FOR DESTRUCTION.

BUT A LOVING FATHER OPENED MY EYES TO THE FACT THAT JESUS WAS REACHING OUT HIS HAND TO SAVE ME.

MY WHOLE LIFE I HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT SOMETHING WAS UNTIL THAT MOMENT.

AND EVERY PERSON IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW IS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.

SOME OF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

SOME OF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH.

SOME OF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR PEACE.

SOME OF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR HOPE AND A FUTURE.

CAN I JUST TELL YOU EVERY ONE OF THOSE THINGS ARE FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST.

IF YOU WILL SURRENDER IT ALL TO HIM.

**ROMANS 3:25**

***25 WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A UPROPITIATION IIN HIS BLOOD THROUGH FAITH, FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, IBECAUSE IN THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD HE PASSED OVER THE SINS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED;***

GOD NOT ONLY MANIFESTED HIS DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS BY OFFERING HIS OWN SON BUT ALSO USED THAT ACT OF DIVINE GRACE TO DEMONSTRATE HIS DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THROUGH SUCH AN INCOMPARABLE SACRIFICE, GOD PROVIDED THE NECESSARY PUNISHMENT FOR SIN THAT WAS SUFFICIENT TO WASH AWAY THE SINS OF EVERY BELIEVER THAT WOULD EVER LIVE.

***BECAUSE IN THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD HE PASSED OVER THE SINS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED;***

LET'S PUT THIS IN TERMS WE USE TODAY.

IN GODS PATIENCE HE OVERLOOKED THE SINS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE IS UNAWARE OR THAT HE CONDONES EVEN THE SMALLEST OF SINS.

WHAT IT DOES MEAN IS THAT HE WITHHELD HIS JUDGMENT OF SIN FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

**AFTER THE FALL WHEN GOD COULD HAVE DESTROYED ADAM AND EVE WHICH WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE, HE PASSED OVER THEIR SINS.**

**EVEN IN THE FLOOD AS WE LEARNED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT GOD STILL SAVED EIGHT PEOPLE.**

**GOD'S ULTIMATE JUDGMENT OF SIN WAS WITHHELD UNTIL HE POURED THAT JUDGEMENT OUT ON HIS SON.**

***ROMANS 3:26***

***26 FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AT THE PRESENT TIME, SO THAT HE WOULD BE JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER OF THE ONE WHO [\[o\]](#)HAS FAITH IN JESUS.***

**THE FATHER WITHHELD HIS JUDGEMENT UNTIL HE WAS ABLE TO DISPLAY IT FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.**

**HE WAS JUST IN THAT SIN WAS PUNISHED, AND HE WAS THE JUSTIFIER IN THAT HE WAS THE ONE THAT PROVIDED THE SACRIFICE.**

**SINCE HE IS JUST AND PUNISHED SIN THIS DEMONSTRATED HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**AND PAUL ENDS THIS VERSE BY SAYING "OF THE ONE WHO HAS FAITH IN JESUS."**

**THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN THE LAST 4 VERSES HE REFERENCES FAITH IN JESUS.**

**IT'S AS IF HE IS MAKING SURE THAT HIS READERS UNDERSTAND FAITH IN CHRIST IS A REQUIREMENT IN ORDER TO BE JUSTIFIED OR DECLARED RIGHTEOUS IN THE EYES OF THE FATHER.**

**GOD IS PERFECTLY MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS AS WELL AS PERFECTLY JUST.**

**BUT HE WILL NEVER SACRIFICE ONE FOR THE OTHER.**

**GOD WILL NEVER ALLOW HIS JUSTICE TO BE DIMINISHED BY HIS MERCY.**

**IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM HE EXERCISED PERFECT MERCY AND JUSTICE IN ONE ACT.**

**HE SHOWED HIS MERCY FOR SINNERS BY ALLOWING HIS SON TO BE SACRIFICED FOR THEIR SINS.**

**JESUS WAS PUNISHED AS IF HE HAD COMMITTED OUR SINS AND THEREFORE, HE SUFFERED THE WRATH OF GODS JUDGEMENT.**

**THIS SATISFIED GODS JUSTICE.**

***ROMANS 3:27***

***27 WHERE THEN IS BOASTING? IT IS EXCLUDED. BY WHAT KIND OF LAW? OF WORKS? NO, BUT BY A LAW OF FAITH.***

**AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD BE KEENLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WE ARE NOT BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.**

**BUT THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT US.**

**OH THOSE CHRISTIANS THINK THEY'RE SO GOOD.**

**HOLY ROLLERS**

**BIBLE THUMPERS**

**THEY THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.**

**WHEN THE TRUE CHRISTIAN KNOWS WE AREN'T BETTER THAN ANYONE.**

**THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT WE RECOGNIZE OUR SIN FOR WHAT IT IS.**

**WE STRIVE TO LIVE A LIFE THAT REFLECTS OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST, KNOWING ALL THE WHILE WE ARE COMPLETELY UNDESERVING OF WHAT HE'S DONE FOR US.**

**WE SHOULD NEVER BE PROUD BUT FOREVER GRATEFUL.**

**WE SHOULD NEVER BE SELF-RIGHTEOUS THINKING THAT OUR GOOD WORKS MAKES US BETTER THAN OTHERS.**

**IN REALITY WE SHOULD BE BROKEN OVER OUR SIN, HUMBLLED BY THE FACT THAT A PERFECT GOD HAS ADOPTED US INTO HIS FAMILY.**

**HUMBLLED BY THE FACT THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US.**

**NONE OF THESE THINGS SHOULD EVER BRING US A SENSE OF PRIDE BUT RATHER HUMILITY KNOWING ALL THE WHILE WE ARE SO UNDESERVING.**

**OUR BOASTING IS EXCLUDED BY THE LAW OF FAITH, AND WE CAN'T BOAST IN OUR FAITH BECAUSE AS WE LEARNED EARLIER IT'S NOT DEPENDENT ON US BUT RATHER IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD.**

***ROMANS 3:28***

***28 [P] FOR WE MAINTAIN THAT A MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS [Q] OF THE LAW.***

**PAUL IS DRIVING HOME THE POINT HE HAS MADE NUMEROUS TIMES ALREADY.**

**AND THIS IS HOW PAUL OPERATES; HE WILL OFTEN REITERATE OR REPEAT HIMSELF.**

**AND HE DOES THIS BECAUSE HE WAS OFTEN ACCUSED BY FALSE TEACHERS OF MISREPRESENTING THE GOSPEL.**

**PAUL WAS ACCUSED OF SAYING THAT AS CHRISTIANS WE HAVE A LICENSE TO SIN SINCE GOD'S GRACE COVERS OUR SINS.**

**AND HERE'S HIS REPLY TO THAT**

***ROMANS 6:1,2***

***WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? ARE WE TO CONTINUE IN SIN SO THAT GRACE MAY INCREASE? 2 MAY IT NEVER BE! HOW SHALL WE WHO DIED TO SIN STILL LIVE IN IT?***

DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE TRAPPED IN THAT LIE FROM THE ENEMY.

THE ONE THAT SAYS IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I SIN, MY SIN IS ALREADY FORGIVEN AND COVERED BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

A TRUE CHILD OF GOD KNOWS BETTER.

THAT'S WHY PAUL SAYS HOW CAN HE WHO HAS DIED TO SIN LIVE IN IT ANY LONGER.

***2<sup>ND</sup> PETER 2:21,22***

***21 FOR IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THEM NOT TO HAVE KNOWN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAN HAVING KNOWN IT, TO TURN AWAY FROM THE HOLY COMMANDMENT HANDED ON TO THEM. 22 THE [H] MESSAGE OF THE TRUE PROVERB HAS HAPPENED TO THEM, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," AND, "A SOW, AFTER WASHING, RETURNS TO WALLOWING IN THE MIRE."***

DON'T LET THIS VERSE BE ABOUT YOU.

***ROMANS 3:29***

***29 OR IS GOD THE GOD OF JEWS ONLY? IS HE NOT THE GOD OF GENTILES ALSO? YES, OF GENTILES ALSO,***

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOD AND WHEN IT COMES TO SALVATION HE DOES NOT DIFFERENTIATE BASED ON RACE, SEX, HEIGHT OR WEIGHT, HE IS THE GOD OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE REPENTED AND PLACED THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

PAUL MAKES THIS STATEMENT IN ANTICIPATION OF WHAT SOME JEWS WOULD SAY IN REGARD TO JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH.

MANY JEWS IN BIBLICAL TIMES BELIEVED THAT GENTILES WERE OUTSIDE THE DOMAIN OF "THEIR" GOD.

INSTEAD OF CONSIDERING THEMSELVES AS BELONGING TO GOD, THEY CONSIDERED GOD AS BELONGING TO THEM.

TAKE JONAH FOR EXAMPLE.

HE DIDN'T FLEE FROM NINEVAH BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT HE WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL, HE FLED BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID HE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND GOD WOULD USE HIM TO DRAW THAT GENTILE PAGAN NATION TO HIMSELF.

PAUL IS ALSO PROBABLY FEELING THE WEIGHT OF HIS OWN PREJUDICE PRIOR TO HIS CONVERSION.

KNOWING HOW HE USED TO FEEL TOWARDS GENTILES WOULD BE THE SAME WAY HIS JEWISH BROTHERS MAY FEEL SO HE IS ANSWERING THE QUESTION BEFORE ITS EVEN ASKED.

***ROMANS 3:30***

***<sup>30</sup> SINCE INDEED GOD, WHO WILL JUSTIFY THE <sup>[R]</sup>CIRCUMCISED <sup>[S]</sup>BY FAITH AND THE <sup>[U]</sup>UNCIRCUMCISED THROUGH THAT FAITH, IS ONE.***

JUST AS THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OF SALVATION AND THAT IS THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

CIRCUMCISED AND UNCIRCUMCISED IS ANOTHER WAY OF DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE.

IT'S AS IF PAUL WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT HE HAS MADE HIS POINT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR.

TO LEAVE NO ROOM FOR MISINTERPRETATION OR MANIPULATION OF WHAT HE IS SAYING.

PAUL WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRETY OF THIS LETTER TO DRIVE HOME THE POINT WHICH IS: SALVATION HAS ALWAYS COME THROUGH FAITH AND NOTHING ELSE.

***ROMANS 3:31***

***<sup>31</sup> DO WE THEN ABOLISH <sup>[U]</sup>THE LAW THROUGH FAITH? MAY IT NEVER BE! ON THE CONTRARY, WE ESTABLISH THE LAW.***

SO FAR TODAY WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE WONDERFUL GRACE OF GOD AND THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION.

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT SOTERIOLOGY...



**SOME OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHAT THAT IS BUT FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT DON'T IT IS THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION.**

**PAUL'S CLOSING ARGUMENT IN CHAPTER 3 IS THAT THE LAW HAS NEVER BEEN A MEANS TO ATTAIN SALVATION**

**THE CROSS DOESN'T NULLIFY THE LAW BUT CONFIRMS THE LAW.**

**THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAD BECOME SO HYPER FOCUSED ON THE LAW AND KEEPING THE LAW THAT IT HAD BECOME THEIR OBJECT OF WORSHIP.**

**THEY HAD PLACED THEIR FAITH IN THE LAW FOR SALVATION INSTEAD OF PLACING THEIR FAITH IN THE LAW GIVER.**

**THEY MISSED THE POINT THAT THE LAW HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PUT ON DISPLAY THE RIGHTEOUS STANDARDS OF A PERFECT HOLY GOD.**

**THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW WAS TO DRIVE MEN TO GOD, KNOWING THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO THE KEEP THE LAW, THEY SHOULD LONG FOR THE LORD TO RESCUE FROM THE PENALTY OF THE LAW.**

**SO LET'S FINISH WITH HOW THE LAW IS ESTABLISHED BY THE CROSS.**

**JOHN MACARTHUR GIVES US THREE WAYS THAT SUM IT UP BEAUTIFULLY.**

**FIRST IT ESTABLISHES THE LAW BY PAYING THE PENALTY OF DEATH WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR SIN.**

**THE WAGES OF SIN IS.... DEATH**

**BY LIVING A PERFECT SINLESS LIFE AND GIVING HIS LIFE FOR ALL OF HIS FOLLOWERS HE SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW.**

**THE SECOND WAY THE CROSS ESTABLISHES THE LAW IS BY FULFILLING IT'S PURPOSE IN DRIVING MEN TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.**

AND THIRD THE CROSS PROVIDES BELIEVERS THE POTENTIAL OF FULFILLING IT.

***ROMANS 8:3,4***

***<sup>3</sup> FOR WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO, <sup>[B]</sup>WEAK AS IT WAS THROUGH THE FLESH, GOD DID: SENDING HIS OWN SON IN THE LIKENESS OF <sup>[C]</sup>SINFUL FLESH AND AS AN OFFERING FOR SIN, HE CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH, <sup>4</sup> SO THAT THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO DO NOT WALK ACCORDING TO THE FLESH BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT.***

WE MUST WALK ACCORDING THE SPIRT, WE MUST WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.

WE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED OR DECLARED RIGHTEOUS THROUGH OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

WE HAVE ATTAINED SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

AND FAITH WE HAVE NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING THAT WE'VE DONE BUT FAITH THAT IS A GIFT FROM GOD SO THAT NONE OF US CAN BOAST.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD EVERY DAY, DON'T WAIT UNTIL THINGS GET TOUGH.

IN FACT, WHEN THINGS ARE GOING GREAT DRAW EVEN CLOSER TO HIM, ASK TO HELP YOU NOT TO BECOME PRIDEFUL OR LAZY.

ASK HIM TO HELP YOU BE A GOOD STEWARD OF THE BLESSING HE HAS PROVIDED FOR YOU.

REMEMBER GOD REWARDS THOSE THAT EARNESTLY SEEK HIM.

AND NOT WITH EARTHLY REWARDS BUT WITH REWARDS THAT CANNOT PURCHASED AND ARE MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.

AN ABUNDANT LIFE IN CHRIST.

**NOT AN ABUNDANCE OF MATERIAL THINGS BUT AN ABUNDANCE OF LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, GENTLENESS, FAITHFULNESS AND SELF-CONTROL.**

**SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.**