

Sermon Discussion Guide

"How is It Possible for God to Forgive Us?"

Romans 3:21-26

1.) We are people who would rather earn something than receive a free gift that we did not earn. When it comes to God, we don't want to just be accepted by God. Rather, we want to try to prove ourselves acceptable to God. We try to earn God so that we can feel worthy. We try to earn Him so that we receive the credit and glory. This keeps us from receiving the free gift of God's righteousness for us through Jesus Christ.

- Why do we try to earn God's favor so much? In what ways are you trying to earn your own righteousness instead of resting in God's righteousness in Christ?
- Why is it so difficult to accept God's free gift of His righteousness?
- What would it look like if you embraced Jesus' perfect performance on your behalf? You would experience much humility and freedom.

2.) There are three angles to the gospel that we see in our passage. They are (1) justification, (2) redemption, and (3) propitiation.

Justification - God declares us righteous in His sight if we put our faith in Christ. Jesus Christ gives us his righteousness. Instead of trying to be justified by our own works, we are justified (made right with God) by the work of Christ for us.

Redemption - God paid the price for our sin so that we can be brought out of the slavery of sin and into freedom with Him. Jesus Christ gave us his life to purchase our freedom. Instead of remaining slaves to our sin, we are freed from our sin and its consequences.

Propitiation - God satisfies His wrath that we deserve by sacrificing His Son for us. Jesus Christ took the wrath of God for us. Instead of receiving condemnation, we receive God's favor.

- Do you have any questions about any of these angles of the gospel?
- What stands out to you as you learn more about these three aspects of the gospel?
- Do you truly believe that you are God declares you righteous, has freed you from sin, and looks on you in favor?

Salvation is free to all who believe in Jesus Christ. However, salvation is costly.

Jesus Christ gave up His life for us.
