

Righteousness Revealed

Romans 3:21-31

Introduction:

1. **Writer of the book** – The Apostle Paul to the church at Rome.
2. **Theme of the book** – The Gospel (good news); It is the good announcement that God sent His Son to live a perfect life for you; to die a death for you; and to resurrect so that you can live forever.
3. Romans 3:21-31 is considered by some to be the most important passage in Scripture. The reformer, Martin Luther even calls this section of Paul's letter to the Romans. "Paul had spent two chapters explaining how the law cannot save a person. The law only shows us how messed up we all are. The law cannot justify you, it can only reveal how you fall short. Without the law, you end up thinking you are okay, but when you start measuring yourself up to the law, we find how everyone truly falls short. It's purpose is to diagnose your problem, not cure your problem.
4. **Romans 3:21-25** commentary
 - **Righteousness** – The Bible is clear that there is no one that is righteous (no not one). Our "righteousness" are as filthy rags. That means that our righteous living (good works) can never be enough to pay for the destruction that our sin has caused. It is not enough. So when we see "righteousness, it is not yours, it is His. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life, and His righteousness is placed into your life at the moment

of your Salvation so that Jesus does not even see us, He sees Jesus.

- **Justification** – This is a legal term meaning "to declare righteous." It refers to the moment where the righteous judge (God) declares you "not guilty." Justification is not a process of becoming righteous, justification is a declaration that you are now righteous. **Illus:** When Abby and I got married, our standing before the state changed. We are no longer single, we are married. When you place your faith in Jesus, He justifies you. He declares you righteous, not because of works you have done, but according to what He has done for you. Jesus' righteousness now have been imputed (credited to your account) – Romans 4:22-25. Now, because of His work in your life. Your standing changes to "just as if you have never sinned. You are forever justified!
- **Redemption** – This word means to buy something back or to restore it. **Illus:** Dumb and Dumber – when Lloyd sells the van for a moped and totally "redeems himself." The point is that he restored everything. **Illus:** gift cards. Someone purchased it and now all you have to do is redeem it. When Jesus redeems us, it cost Him His life, and cost you nothing. All you have to do is trust Him as your Savior, and He will restore your relationship.
- **Propitiation** – He is the atoning sacrifice. All of God's righteous anger for the sin in you and me was poured out on Jesus'. The word propitiation is the same word as "mercy seat" in the Old

Testament. The mercy seat was the place people would go to receive atonement for their sins. Now, Jesus is our mercy seat, and He was the forever atonement for your sins. The word has the idea of satisfaction. Jesus came to die and satisfy the righteous anger of God at our sin.

5. **Romans 3:26-31** commentary
6. Paul concludes this section of his letter with a warning to not boast. His point was not to boast in ourselves or in what we have done, because Salvation is all about what Jesus has done for us. So, boast in Him
 - I. **In Jesus, we are declared righteous** (V. 22, 24)
 1. **Romans 3:22, 24**
 - **Through Faith** (V. 22) – Saving faith understands what Jesus has done for us and trusts in His work alone as the only way for one to be saved.
 - **Not through our own actions or efforts** (V. 23) – The very best that you can do falls short. This is true for everyone so righteousness cannot happen through our own actions or efforts.
 - **Given freely** (V. 24) – Justification (being declared righteous) does not happen through your good works. It is free. Faith is not a work, it is the attitude that we come to God with. We place our faith and hope in what Jesus has done. He did the work for us. We just have to believe and accept the FREE gift.
 2. Verse 22 – All who believe/have faith in Jesus receive this! This is good news for the entire world.
 - II. **In Jesus, we are restored** (V. 24)

- **Sin ruined the relationship** – Sin separated us from the Father. Sin broke our relationship with the Father. Because of sin, we had no way to reconcile our relationship. There was nothing that we can do to restore the relationship.
 - **Jesus death paid for our sin** – *When Jesus died, it satisfied the wrath. The payment for our sin is now available for the whole world.* You may not be a murderer, but we all have a natural tendency to hate people who get what we want.
 - **Faith in Jesus restores our relationship with the Father** – When you trust in Him as the payment for your sin, your relationship with the Father is perfectly restored. He looks at you like He looks at Jesus. We are His children, and can approach the throne of grace whenever we want.
- III. **In Jesus, we are satisfied** (V. 25)
 - Jesus death forever satisfied the sins of the whole world – He died for all of your future sins. He paid for them. His death gave us a never-ending credit. How freeing is that?
 - The death of Jesus demonstrated both the wrath and love of God – His love was demonstrated in that He sent His only Son to die for us, because He loved us that much. His wrath was demonstrated when He turned away. He hates sin because He is perfectly holy. That holiness cannot accept sin.

Conclusion:

1. **Romans 1:16** – Paul says that “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
2. Everything about your salvation starts and ends with Him. Because of Him, we can live righteously. Not because of us, but because of who lives inside of us – Jesus.