

The Way
Maturity of the Church
Lesson 20: The Righteousness of God is Received by Faith

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

Charting Paul's Teaching Through Romans...

- *Condemnation* - You are far from God (Romans 1-3)
- *Justification* - You are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5)
- *Sanctification* - You are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8)
- *Restoration* - You are restored to God (Romans 9-11)
- *Transformation* - You are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16)

Over the last two weeks we established that Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) are...

- **Unrighteous before God** (ignored God's creation, law, and conscience)
Romans 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
- **Incapable of keeping God's commandments**
Romans 3:10 (NLT) As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous - not even one. 11 No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. 12 All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."
- **Deserving of God's wrath and final judgment in hell**
Romans 3:9 (ESV) There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek

BIG Idea

Paul's words to the Romans make being made right with God seem impossible.

Romans 3:20 (ESV) For by works of the law no human being will be justified [*made right*] in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

God's law reveals sin but doesn't have power to rescue us from its' penalty (death).

Where, or to whom do we turn to be made right with God?

John 6:66 (NLT) At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" 68 Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life."

Information (What You Need to Know)

How has God made it possible to be made right with Him and receive eternal life?

▪ **By placing our faith in Jesus Christ**

Romans 3:21 (NLT) But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. **22** We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. **23** For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

I must admit...

- ✓ “It’s impossible to keep God’s law and I have repeatedly broken it”
- ✓ “My sin rightly deserves spiritual, physical, and eternal death”
- ✓ “I trust in God’s promise to send Someone to rescue me from sin and death”
- ✓ **Genesis 3:15 (NLT)** “And I will cause hostility between you [*Satan*] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He [*Jesus*] will strike your head [*destroy you*], and you will strike his heel [*only hurt Him*].”

Genesis 3:7 (NLT) ...their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Genesis 3:21 (NLT) And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

“The first physical deaths should have been the man and his wife, but it was an animal—a shadow of the reality that God would someday kill a substitute to redeem sinners.” – MacArthur Study Bible

▪ **By believing in God’s gift of grace rather than our own works**

Romans 3:24 (NLT) Yet God, in his grace, freely [*as a gift*] makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. **25** For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, **26** for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

“Grace inclines God to give gifts that are free and undeserved.” – John Piper

Romans 3:27 (NLT) Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. **28** So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

- **By believing that there is only one way to salvation**

Romans 3:29 (NLT) After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. **30** There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

God does not have different ways of salvation for different people.

- ✓ It doesn't matter if the person lived before or after Christ's death
- ✓ It doesn't matter if the person is Jew or Gentile
- ✓ It doesn't matter what the person has done

There is only one way of salvation. All who believe are accepted as righteous by God because of Jesus Christ.

Application (What You Need To Do):

Two Old Testament examples of people being made with God through faith...

- **Abraham**

Romans 4:1 (NLT) Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? **2** If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. **3** For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

Although Abraham was a sinner, he believed the good news about the Deliverer, whom God had told him would be one of his descendants

"God accepted Abraham as though he were righteous, not because of his good works, but because he trusted in God's promise. It was undeserved. It was a gift from God." – Firm Foundations

Romans 4:4 (NLT) When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. **5** But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

- **David**

Romans 4:6 (NLT) David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: **7** "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. **8** Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin."

David was the second king of Israel, chosen and anointed by God. However, David committed adultery and then had the woman's husband killed. Paul was quoting from Psalm 32 where David was rejoicing over God's forgiveness of these sins.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.