

# Why the Cross?

During December, we've been focused on that first prayer request of Paul in Ephesians 1.18, and specifically, *how God has worked to secure our hope*. Today, we'll concentrate on Romans 3.21-31, focusing on the basis for our salvation — the cross. What is the main purpose for our redemption? See Ephesians 1.4. Romans 3.25 says Jesus died to **satisfy** the justice or righteousness of God by paying the penalty for our sin in full. What does the cross tell us about our God? What does it reveal about how God secured our hope?

## I. Romans 3.21-26a: The Cross Declares God's Righteousness

- A. 3.21: How is righteousness *not* obtained?
  - 1. 3.21b: the **righteousness** of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets.
  - 2. God has revealed His righteousness.
    - a) 3.21a - Apart from **law**, i.e., law in general; a law system; not just the Law of Moses.
    - b) What he says here is absolute. It is emphatic. There is no reservation.
    - c) *In justification, we make no contribution.*
- B. 3.22a-23a: By what does righteousness come?
  - 1. 3.22a: The righteousness of God is through **faith** in Jesus Christ ...
  - 2. 3.22b-23a: to **all** who believe ... the emphasis here is on **all**... Jew or Gentile.
    - a) ...there is no distinction, for all have sinned...
  - 3. 3.23b: ...**fall short** is present tense. An ongoing condition, status, or position.
- C. 3.24-26a - Justified by Jesus' Blood
  - 1. 3.24a: they are **justified** ... "to be declared righteous." No condemnation.
  - 2. 3.24b: *freely by his **grace***... it is totally undeserved; unmerited; unearned.
  - 3. 3.24c: *by the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*. Redemption: "to be liberated or set free."
  - 4. 3.25a: *whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation*... a "wrath averting sacrifice."
    - a) How are the benefits of Jesus' death applied to us personally?
    - b) 3.25: by faith in his **blood**. Why were you saved?
  - 5. 3.25b: ...*to demonstrate his righteousness*, ...
  - 6. 3.25c-26a: *because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be **just***...

## II. Romans 3.26b-27a: The Cross Displays God's Grace

- A. 3.26b-27a: *and justify the one who has faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded*...
  - 1. Who justifies you? Not you. Your salvation is always all about God.
- B. 3.27b: *By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith*.
  - 1. Everything was designed by God and achieved through Jesus Christ.
- C. 3.28: *For we conclude that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law*.

## III. Romans 3.29-30: God Designed the Cross to Demonstrate His Consistency

- A. God has never had 2 systems of justification. It is the same for everyone.
  - 1. 3.30: *there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith*.
  - 2. *No one* will ever be saved in any other way than by depending on Jesus' sacrifice.

## IV. Romans 3.31: The Cross Demonstrates God's Holiness

- A. 3.31: *Do we then **nullify** the law through faith? Absolutely not!*
  - 1. We uphold God's moral law by leading holy lives greater than that which is under Christ.
  - 2. We aren't saved to ignore law — we are saved to fulfill law.

## V. As We Close...

- A. Where would we be if God had not secured our hope with the cross?
- B. Do you need to come to the cross?