

# Righteousness through Faith

The heart of God's redemptive work in Christ Jesus

Romans 3:21-4:25



“Houston,  
we have a  
problem.”

# Humanity, we have a problem!

- When left to our own devices, we suppress the truth (v. 1:18)
- Our hearts are “idol making factories” (vv. 1:23-25)
- Without God, we are filled with unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, envy, strife, gossip, slander, disobedience, etc. (vv. 1:29-33)
- We have no excuses, as we condemn ourselves (v. 2:1)
- All will perish, both Jew and Greek (v. 2:12)
- God is “right” to judge us and exercise His just wrath (vv. 3:5-8)
- No one is righteous, no one seeks God, nor does anyone do good and all are accountable to God (vv. 3:10-20)

“But now...”

δὲ Νυνὶ

# “But now” ...the divine solution

- The righteousness of God has come [been manifested], apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it (v. 3:21)
- The righteousness of God is available to all [Jew & Gentile] who believe in Jesus through faith, or in Jesus' faithfulness (v. 22).
- This is necessary, as all [Jew & Gentile believers] have sinned (past) and [as a result, continue to] fall short of the glory [standard] of God (v. 23).
- Therefore, those who believe [Jews & Gentiles] are justified [pardoned/declared innocent] by God's grace [who God is, his very nature to save], as a free gift [is not deserved and cannot be earned], through the redemption [deliverance from slavery] that is in [the work of] Christ Jesus (v. 24).
- Jesus' death is the means by which God justifies sinners who believe

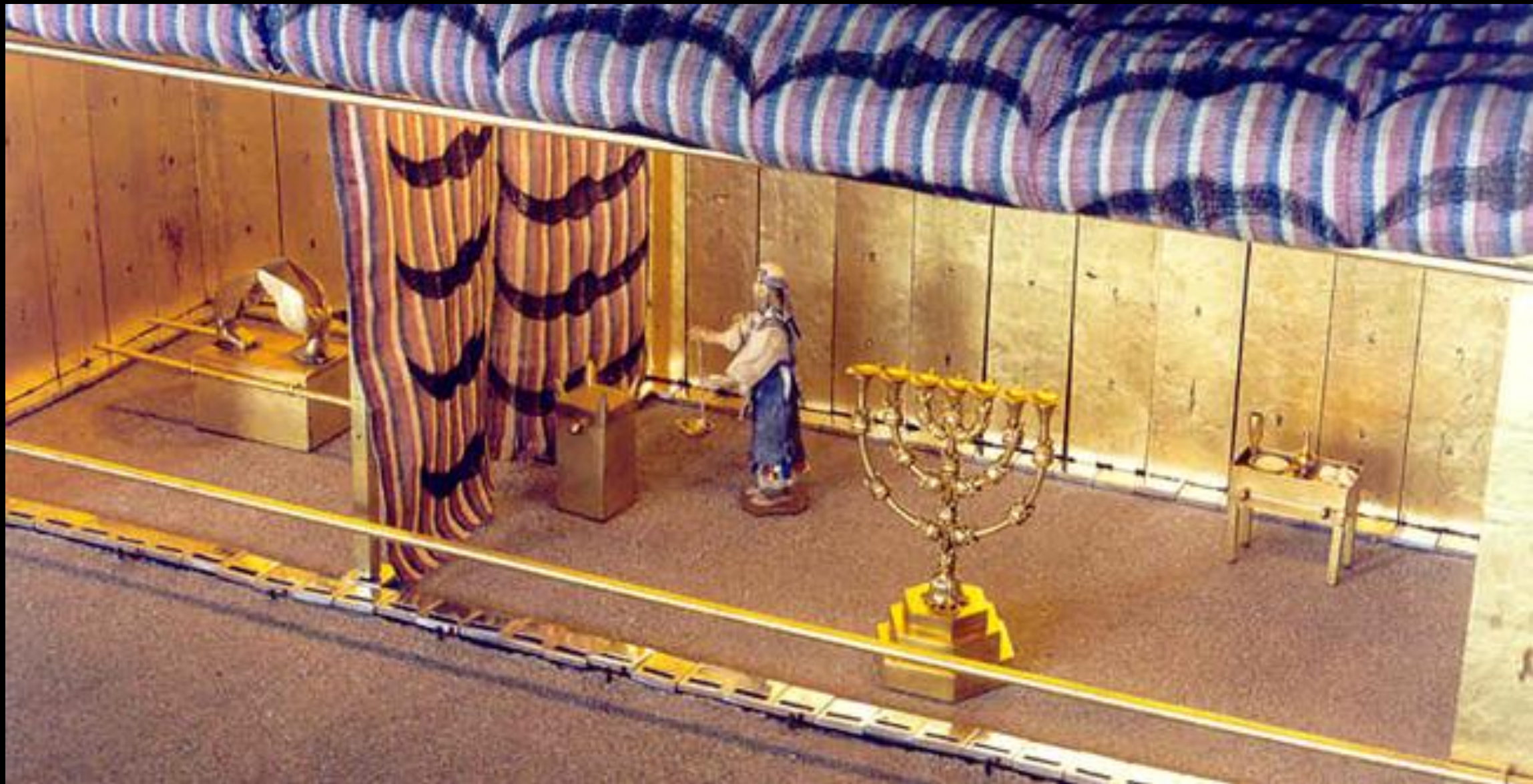
# The Divine Solution

[Jesus] whom God [the Father] put forward as a *propitiation* [an appeasement of divine wrath, covering of sin, “mercy seat” of God] by his blood [OT sacrificial system], to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness [retributive & salvific], because in “his divine forbearance had passed over” former sins. (Romans 3:25)



Mercy  
Seat

Ark of the  
Covenant





# Once for all...

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come ... For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ... “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ... For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ... “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

(Hebrews 10:1-19)



Judgment  
vs.  
Mercy

# Judgment Seat vs. Mercy Seat

So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the **judgment seat** at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

(John 19:10-16, ESV)

# Judgment Seat

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the **judgment seat** of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess<sup>[b]</sup> to God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.  
(Rom. 14:10, ESV)

# Righteousness of God

It was to show his righteousness [relation restoring love] at the present time [now], so that he might be *just* and the *justifier* of the one who has faith in Jesus. (v. 26)

- God does not show partiality (Acts 10:34)
- He forbids the mistreatment of others (Zechariah 7:10)
- He avenges oppression (2 Thess. 1:6; Romans 18:19)
- He rewards love and service to others (Hebrews 6:10)
- He holds people accountable for their wrong doings (Col. 3:25)

# Righteousness Applied

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”  
<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”  
<sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”  
<sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”  
<sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”  
(Luke 23:39-43, ESV)

# By Faith Alone

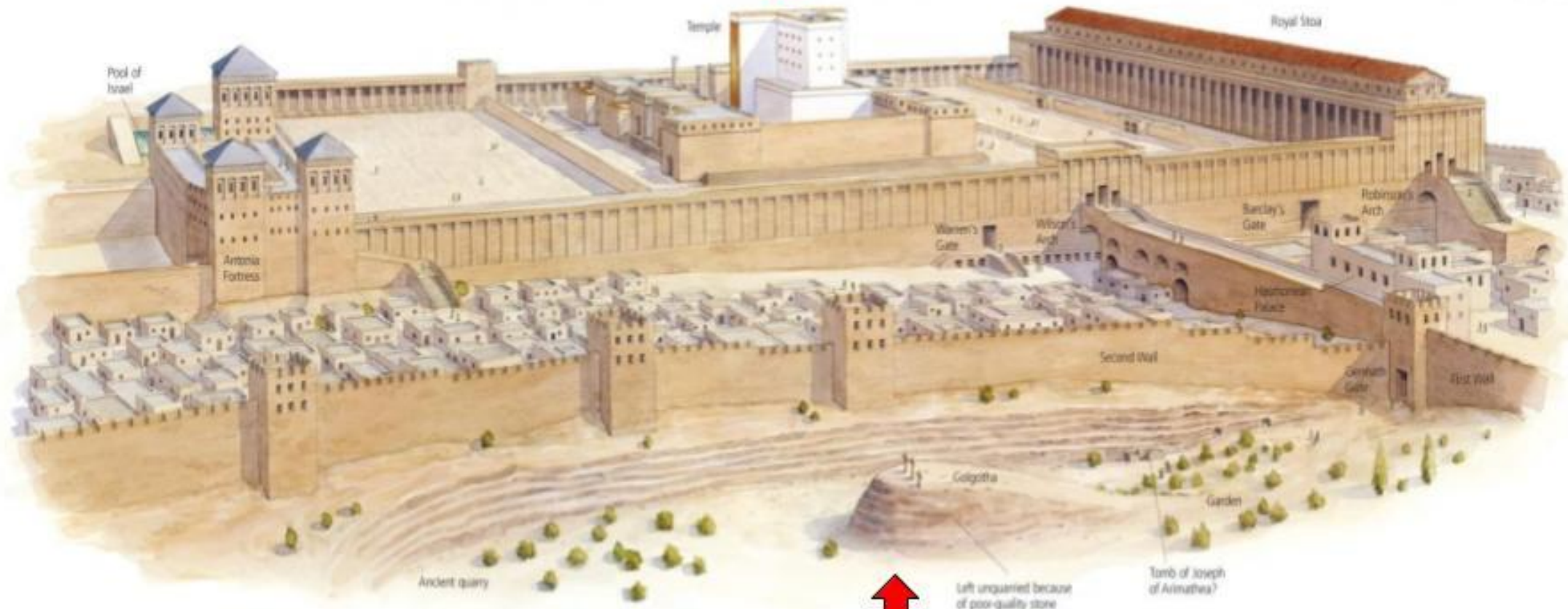
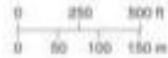
- Boasting is excluded (3:27a)
- Justified by faith, not works of the law (3:27b-28)
- Circumcised and uncircumcised are united under the one God through faith (3:29-30)
- Abraham has no right to boast (4:1-2)
- ...because Abraham was justified by faith, not works (4:3-8)
- Circumcised and uncircumcised are united as children of Abraham through faith (4:9-17)

(Douglas Moo, 1996)





**Mount Moriah**



**Golgotha**

<b>Isaac</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
Miracle baby - born to a barren woman too old to conceive (Gen 18:11)	Miracle baby - born to a virgin (Luk 2:1-7)
Only son (Gen 22:2)	Only Son (John 3:16)
Figuratively dead for 3 days (Gen 22:4, Heb 11:19)	Dead for 3 days (Matt 12:40)
Accompanied by two servants (Gen 22:3)	Accompanied by two criminals (Luk 23:32)
Carried the wood for his sacrifice (Gen 22:6)	Carried the wooden cross for His Sacrifice (John 19:17)
Isaac willingly submitted (Gen 22:9)	Jesus willingly sacrificed (John 10:18)
Sacrificed on a mountain in Moriah (Gen 22:2)	Sacrificed near Mt. Moriah (John 19:20, Heb 13:12)
Figuratively brought back from the dead (Heb 11:19)	Brought back from the dead (Matt 28:6)

# By Faith Alone

He believed in God, who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> He believed, hoping against hope, so that he became the father of many nations according to what had been spoken: So will your descendants be. <sup>19</sup> He considered his own body to be already dead (since he was about 100 years old) and also considered the deadness of Sarah's womb, without weakening in the faith. <sup>20</sup> He did not waver in unbelief at God's promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> because he was fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, it was credited to him for righteousness. <sup>23</sup> Now it was credited to him was not written for Abraham alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (Rom. 4:17-25)

# What shall we do?

1. Acknowledge and believe! (Rom. 10:9) Accept the free gift of salvation (John 1:12)
2. Put on the garment of praise, “wear” the righteousness of Christ. (Isaiah 61:3, Gal. 3:27, Col. 3:10)
3. We all stand equally before God as believers in Christ. (John 13:34-35; Phil. 2:3)
4. No one may boast, as no one has saved themselves (Eph. 2:8-9).
5. Share this good news! (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15)