

## **MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

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### *Lesson 3 – God Has An Answer*

Last week we focused on the problem we have when we consider the utter righteousness of God and we discovered that we were in a pretty dismal condition, but this week we've got good news: for our problem, God has a prescription.

Here we find some of the most important truths in the Bible concerning the nature of salvation. In Romans 1:18-3:20 we saw that we are great sinners. Now, in 3:21-26, we learn of the greatness of Christ's saving work on behalf of sinners. In 1:18-3:20 the universal human problem is exposed: sin. In 3:21-26 the universal human problem is solved in Christ Jesus.

Romans is one of the most important books in the Bible for understanding the gospel. Verses 21-26 may be the most important in the book of Romans. What we are studying is more important than the latest news story. It is more important than the latest sporting event. It is more important than how much money you make or how you appear outwardly and externally.

Consider what a few scholars have said about this passage. Reformation leader Martin Luther said that it is “the chief point, and the very central place of the Epistle, and of the whole Bible.” Morris says it “is possibly the most important single paragraph ever written.” New Testament scholar C.E.B. Cranfield rightly calls this passage “the center and heart” of the whole letter. Mike Bird calls it “the epicenter of [Paul's] gospel.”

It is a theological feast. We see the mega themes of the saving righteousness of God: justification, redemption, propitiation, grace, faith, and more. One writer points out that there is wonderful imagery present here as Paul speaks of salvation as justification (using law court imagery), salvation as redemption (using the imagery of the marketplace), and salvation as propitiation (using the image of a sacrifice that averts wrath).

We will explore each of these concepts along with the other themes present here. In short, we learn a lot about what makes the gospel such good news. Let's consider Jesus's atoning work on behalf of humanity under six headings.

- 1. INTERVENTION – ROMANS 3:21**
- 2. JUSTIFICATION – ROMANS 3:21-24A**
- 3. REDEMPTION – ROMANS 3:24B**
- 4. PROPITIATION – ROMANS 3:25A**
- 5. DEMONSTRATION – ROMANS 3:25-26**
- 6. IMPLICATIONS – ROMANS 3:27-31**

Five SOLAS of the Reformation: grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, based on Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.