



The Just Justifier  
Romans 3:1-26  
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I. Intro

A. Opening Reading: **Rom. 3:21-26**

*<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:21-26)*

B. Vocabulary

1. Righteousness: the state of being just, right (with no wrong at all), perfect, pure, without flaws/blemishes. (v. 21, 22, 25)
2. Justified: the act of rendering or pronouncing one to be right (with no wrong at all), perfect, pure, without flaws/blemishes. (v. 20, 24, 26)
3. Redemption: releasing/delivering from bondage by the payment of a ransom. (v. 24)
4. Propitiation: the person or thing that appeases divine wrath, or procures the favor of God. (v. 25)

II. Body

A. No One Is Right (The Playing Field is Now Level)

1. Paul challenged Israelites who may have placed their faith in their genetics, culture, nation, etc.

*<sup>1</sup> Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? <sup>2</sup> Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. <sup>3</sup> What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? <sup>4</sup> By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,*

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*"That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. (Rom. 3:1-4)*

2. God's faithfulness is independent of people and circumstances.
  - a. He's faithful no matter.
  - b. He's always right and never wrong.
  - c. He's holy and there is none else like Him.
  - d. He's righteous, and there is no comparison.
3. God is true vs. Everyone else is a liar
  - a. God is righteous vs. Everyone else unrighteous.
  - b. Israel was faithless (as a nation) vs. He remained faithful.
4. Paul knocked the self-pride of religious nationalism of the day right to the ground.

*<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, (Rom. 3:9)*

- a. Only God is right.
5. Everyone else is NOT.

*<sup>10</sup> as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." [Ps. 14:1-3] <sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." [Ps. 5:9] <sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." [Ps. 10:7] <sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; [Prov. 1:16] <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known." <sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Rom. 3:10-18)*

6. The law makes mountains low.

*<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Rom. 3:19-20)*

- a. The law was given (partly) to reveal that you have a problem. (v. 19)

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- b. No one can be justified by their weak attempts to have a better X-ray. (v. 20a)

justified: *the act of rendering or pronouncing one to be right (with no wrong at all), perfect, pure, without flaws/blemishes.*

- c. The law was meant to shut every mouth.

## B. But... Rightness is Now Available

<sup>21</sup> *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--* <sup>22</sup> *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:* <sup>23</sup> *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* <sup>24</sup> *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (Rom. 3:21-24)*

1. Righteousness: *the state of being just, right (with no wrong at all), perfect, pure, without flaws/blemishes. (v. 21, 22, 25)*
2. This is the Gospel: The state of being right, perfect, pure is now available and wide open. (v. 21)
  - a. But this righteousness is not from our weak attempts to keep the law.
  - b. It is from Jesus victorious completion of the law perfectly.
  - c. And this righteousness is available to all who place their trust in His doing. (v. 22)
  - d. There is but one gospel (for the Jew and Greek)
  - e. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (v. 23)
3. You who've been justified (declared to be right), received this pronouncement as a gift from God.
  - a. He just gave it to you, because of His own goodness.
4. Redemption: *releasing/delivering from bondage by the payment of a ransom. (v. 24)*
  - a. Jesus paid for your release in His own blood.
  - b. He paid a hefty ransom price that you might be delivered from bondage.

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- c. He purchased your freedom.
  - d. It wasn't because you deserved it.

### C. Jesus Made it Happen

*<sup>25</sup> whom [Christ] God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:25-26)*

1. Propitiation: the person or thing that *appeases divine wrath, or procures the favor of God.* (**v. 25**)
  - a. Mercy seat, covering.
  - b. Jesus appeased the Father with His own blood.
  - c. We only receive this favor by faith.

### III. Conclusion

*<sup>25</sup> whom [Christ] God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:25-26)*

- A. God gave us righteousness by faith in Christ to show off His righteousness (**v. 25b, 26a**)
  1. To bring Himself glory.
    - a. We had nothing to do with it.
    - b. Our weak yes, boast about His goodness (and not our own).
  2. God is making unrighteous dirt, righteous.
- B. This Good News shows that God is not only the Just One, but the Justifier.
  1. You have been saved by grace, through faith. (**Eph. 2:8**)
  2. Not of works lest any man should boast. (**Eph. 2:9**)