

**I. Through Faith - Rom. 3:21-24**

1. Paul discusses the wrath of God - Romans 1:18-3:20
  - so “but now” contrasts God’s wrath (**verses 21-23**)
2. God’s “righteousness” is apart from the law
  - it has been superseded
  - the good news is that now both Jews and Gentiles may be saved
- Rea
  - whereas before it was a “Jewish” thing
3. There is discontinuity in the way we are saved
  - but the Law is still operates - in that it bears witness to God’s Righteousness
- Rea      4. In verse 21 Paul says that the Law and Prophets testify of the righteousness of the New Testament which is through Jesus - it foretells this new thing
5. This new righteousness is “given” (verse 22) - through Jesus
- Rea
  - given, not earned - how? Through faith in Jesus
- Rea
  - so we “get” it through faith
- Rea
  - who may obtain it? - “all who believe” - so there is a whosoever, but only those who believe
6. There is no difference
  - between Gentile and Jew
  - all come into God’s kingdom and righteousness the same way...why?
7. Because all have sinned - we are all under that sentence -
  - we all sin
  - we all fall short of God’s glory
- Rea
  - I like to think of God’s glory as what God had originally planned for all humanity
8. All justified by grace (**verse 24**)
- Rea      9. Note the “alls”
  - A. All have sinned
  - B. All fall short of God’s glory
  - C. All may be justified - in the same way
10. “Redemption” is God’s buying us back - how? Through Jesus Christ
  - A. Slaves of war were often liberated by the paying of a price
  - B. So, we are also set free because Jesus had paid the price - he has liberated us from sin
- Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. All come the same way
    - Jesus made that way - but we must exercise our “faith” in His way
  2. Note how Paul here dovetails the Old Testament and New Testament - the Law (Old Testament) testifies to the New Testament righteousness
  3. God is in no way unrighteous to do it this way - God (Himself) has paid His own standard

**II. In Jesus - Romans 3:25-26**

1. Christ is a sacrifice for sins (**verse 25**)
2. Atonement

- at Hebrews 9:5 the ark is covered with the blood on the Day of Atonement
- Jesus' blood was shed and sprinkled on the Ark to make atonement
- 3. In God's restraint He allowed the sins before Jesus to go unpunished, until righteousness payment was made on the cross (**verse 25**)
- Rea 4. So our "faith" (verse 26) is in Jesus' work
  - also, note that the method of "faith" is mentioned in verse 25
  - faith in what? (Faith is always "directional" - it is always faith "in" something) - faith in Jesus' work
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. So, Jesus follows the Old Testament pattern set down and sent down to Moses - the Ark, the Mercy Seat, etc - it was a shadow of the reality in Jesus
  2. Faith is often an action word - you place faith in something
    - you turn your son loose with the car - you have faith in him
    - you don't police your wife's spending because you have faith in her
    - your faith latches onto something... always, and here our faith latches onto Jesus
  3. Day of Atonement they needed a sacrifice
    - Jesus is that sacrifice

### III. For All People - Romans 3:27-31

1. How can anyone boast about this? - it is impossible (**verses 27-28**)
  - Rea -you can't boast about your own work because it is all about Jesus' work
2. The word "law" here might refer to the principle of working
  - Rea -we might say - what's the principle here?
  - the principle requires works? No, the principle requires faith
3. Faith is focused away from us - to what Jesus did
  - Rea -instead of being focused toward us - in what we can do (works)
4. So, God is also a God of the Gentiles - not just Jews (**verses 29-31**)
  - the Jewish "works" does not give them an entrance into heaven and the Gentiles not
    - A. No, God is one (Dt. 6:4)
    - B. He is no respecter of persons either
    - C. "Circumcised" and "Uncircumcised" are the same to God - Jews and Gentiles
5. So, does the law fall away? - not at all! (**Verse 31**)
  - he does not say what he means
  - Rea -the law is upheld in that it is fulfilled by Christ - He lived out the law. He fulfilled the "contract" made by the law. By faith in what He has done, the law has been fulfilled, and a new way has been opened to all the world.
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. God consistently (even in the Old Testament) loved the entire world
    - go back to Genesis and see how God took care of Hagar and Ishmael
    - though Esau was not the "chosen" son, he was still loved (of God) and taken care of
  2. In the New Testament God does not leave the Gentiles looking in, hoping to somehow be saved - no, He made a way for all to be saved
  3. The Jews were probably "boasting" (verse 27) - it is human nature to boast about your good works - very few people can do good works and not point them out to others.

Jesus told us to give - in private. He taught us to pray - in private (not on street corners). It's not about us.

#### **IV. Including Abraham - Romans 4:1-3**

1. Abraham is an example of just what Paul is teaching (**verse 1**)
    - obviously loved and venerated by the Jewish people
    - if anyone could boast it would've been him
  2. If he'd been justified by works, he could boast
    - Rea -compare the word boast here with the word "boast" at verse 27
  3. He was justified by faith (**verses 2-3**)
    - he "believed" God and it was credited to him as righteousness
    - Rea -so is this an Old Testament saint saved by faith?
  4. "Credited" is a way of saying that God looked at that faith and knew in his heart he was right. Even in the Old Testament it's a heart thing. On Mt Moriah Abraham gave Isaac in sacrifice even though his life was not taken. He "would have" - God read his heart and knew he was going to kill him.
    - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Abraham was a man of faith so his faith is seen his entire life
    - he believed God, that God would even give a son
    - he believed that God would do something on Mt Moriah
    - he left his own people and followed God - by faith
  2. However, it would be wrong to see Abraham as a sinless man - he did some very ungodly things
  3. We put our faith in Jesus - and His life - God "credits" that to us

Charles Ray - SS Lesson for March 22, 2020