

## Session #12: “THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD”— *Romans 3:21-31*

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - [philtwente@att.net](mailto:philtwente@att.net)

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

### Questions:

- Verse 21 says “(a) righteousness from God, apart from the law is revealed”. What part does the law play in this righteousness? How do we establish the law? (v. 31)
- Why do we need this righteousness? Is it a necessity?
- What is the nature of this righteousness of God?
- Is salvation ever based on what Jesus Christ has done “**and**” anything?
- One commentator says, “God in effect, says utter and infinite oceans of grace shall roll over the place where judgment and condemnation were!” Do you agree with this?
- Is it Christ’s blood or our faith that provides propitiation? (v. 25)

### THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - *Romans 1:18-8:39*

Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - 1:18-3:20

**Principle #2 - JUSTIFICATION - 3:21-5:21 (How can a condemned man be righteous before a holy God?)**

1A. **DEPENDENT UPON THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST ALONE- 3:21-31 (The NEED for the righteousness of God - 21-23; The NECESSITY of the righteousness of God -24-26; The NATURE of the righteousness of God - 27-31**

2A. **DESCRIBED** IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM - 4:1-25

3A. **DECLARED** IN THE REWARDS OF OUR SALVATION - 5:1-11

3A. **DEMONSTRATED** IN THE RESULTS OF THE FALL - 5:12-21

v. 21 - “**But now...**” - great contrast - since the death of Jesus Christ, everything has been changed!

1B. **The NEED for the righteousness of God - 21-23**

He just finished the argument on Condemnation by saying that “*by the law is the knowledge of sin*” - **now he says that God’s righteousness is revealed “without the law” or “apart from the law”**

The or (“a”) “*righteousness of God*” means three things (possibilities):

(1) God is righteous - cf. 1 John 2:29

(2) God demands righteousness – “Be holy for I am holy”

(3) God provides righteousness – God Himself has provided righteousness. So it becomes an act of God whereby we are declared righteous!!

Rom 3:21 **But now the(a) righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed,**  
(now) **being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,**

1C. **Apart from the law!!!** The law (or our keeping of it) has nothing to do with this righteousness!!

**It is being witnessed by the law and prophets** – 21 –How by the law? - through its sacrificial system!

Prophets – cf. Isa. 53; John 5:46; Acts 15:11; 1 Peter 1:10. He is our only Redeemer! “Slain before the foundation of the world!” It is continually being witnessed to by the law and prophets (present tense), but it has been manifested through what the law and prophets revealed. “The Law” can refer to the Torah.

Luke 24; or it can refer to the first five Books and all the history – Law & the Prophets. The Law also is used in applying just to the Ten Commandments. Also the 600+ laws written by the Israelis. The law is also used to describe the laws of the land (civic/governmental laws). Sacrificial law. Without a sacrifice, we die!

Rom 3:22 *even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, **to all and on all** who believe. For there is **no difference**;*

2C. **It is Received by all who believe** – 22 - MSS differences - many leave out the words “*to all*” - the words “*to all*” deal with **the extent** of it, and the words “*on all*” deals with **the effect** of it. “*no*

*difference*” - there is no distinction made in the family of God – all are equal in God’s eyes - based on faith in the Lord!

*Rom 3:23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the **glory of God**,*

3C. It is Required because all have sinned and there is no difference! – This is critical! – 23 - There is also no distinction among those who have sinned - “*all have sinned*”. We have missed the mark of the “*glory of God*”. We do not become sinners through sinning; we sin because we already are sinners - born in sin - cf. *Psa. 51:5; Gal. 3:22.*

## **2B. The NECESSITY of the righteousness of God -24-26**

*Rom 3:24 being justified (**just as if** I’d never sinned) **freely** by His grace **through the redemption** that is in Christ Jesus,*

1C. It requires a Purchase – 24 - “*freely*” - Greek: *dorean* - used 9 times - cf. *John 15:25* - “*without a cause*” – or without cost, as well! - cf. *2 Thess. 3:8* - “*redemption*” - Greek: *apolutrosis* - used 10 times - cf. *Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:15.*

*Rom 3:25 whom God set forth as a **propitiation by His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness,*

2C. It requires a Propitiation - 25ab - Greek: *hilasteerion* - “*mercy seat*” – *Lev. 16:15*; twice cf. *1 John 2:2; 4:9-10* - *hilasmos* – twice “*forbearance*” - Greek: *anochē* - “*holding up*” *Rom. 2:4* (NASB translates “*as a propitiation by His blood through faith*” - but the text reads - “*faith in His blood*” - it is His blood, not our faith that provides propitiation!)

*because in His forbearance God had **passed over** the sins that were previously committed,*

*Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

3C. It requires Patience - 25c-26 - “*because in His forbearance God*” - cf. *Rom. 2:4* - KJV text “*remission*” does not reflect the precise meaning of the Greek term *pareisin*. It means “*passed over*” or “*overlooked*” - cf. *Acts 17:30-31*

## **3B. The NATURE of the righteousness of God - 27-31**

*Rom 3:27 Where is **boasting** then? It is excluded. By what **law**? Of **works**? No, but by the law of faith.*

1C. It excludes boasting - 27 - cf. *1 Cor. 1:26-29*

*Rom 3:28 Therefore we **conclude** that a man is **justified by faith apart** from the deeds of the law.*

2C. It eliminates righteousness by law – 28 - “*conclude*” - Greek: *logizomai* - used 42 times in NT, 19 in Romans, 11 in ch. 4

*Rom 3:29 Or is He the **God of the Jews** only? Is He not also the **God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,***

*Rom 3:30 since there is **one God who will justify** the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

3C. It enables God to be God of both Jews and Gentiles - 29-30 - cf. *Eph. 2:11-18*

*Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? **Certainly not!** On the contrary, **we establish the law.***

4C. It establishes the law – 31

How does it do that?

1D. By paying the penalty – death

2D. By leading us to the Messiah - cf. *Gal. 3:24* – was our tutor to bring us to Christ!

3D. By making it possible for believers to fulfill the law - *Rom. 8:3-4*

Spurgeon said, “It’s not your hope in Christ which saves you. It’s Christ. It’s not your joy in Christ that saves you. It is Christ. And it is not your faith in Christ that save you, though that be the instrument, it is Christ’s blood and merit!”

**1 Cor. 1:26-31 Yes, all praise and all glory be unto Him!!!!**