

ROMANS: PART 13 EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

God's Righteous Justification (Righteoussing) of All Who Believe
"Justification By Grace Alone"
Romans 3:22b-24

The Context.

1. Gospel of Justification Defined. Rom 3:21-26.
 - The *means* of justification -- faith alone. Vs 21-22.
 - The *source* of justification -- grace alone. Vs 22-24.
 - The *ground* of justification -- Christ alone. Vs 24b-26.
2. "Grace" means:
 - God's voluntary, unrestrained, unmerited favor toward guilty sinners, granting them justification & life instead of the penalty of death, which they deserve.
 - God's free bestowal of love & kindness on guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance of their demerit. It is God showing goodness to persons who deserve only severity, and had no reason to expect anything but severity.

Grace Alone means my justification is unmerited. Vs 23

1. We "fell short of God's glory." Undeserving. No merits. No claim to heaven.
2. We "sinned" against God. Ill-deserving. Demerits. Destined for Hell.
3. The reason this *misplaced* verse is here: to emphasize that grace can only be understood in the light of our fallenness & unworthiness.
4. You cannot be *justified by grace alone* until you have been humbled.

Grace Alone means my justification is a free gift. Vs 24a

1. Our justification is a "gift" not a wage. Cf. Rom 4:4.
 - It is free to us (It cost us nothing).
 - It was not free to Christ (Cf. "redemption" = He paid a high price).
2. Our justification by grace ceases to be a "gift" if God is *compelled* to give it (or withdraw it):
 - God was not under obligation to give grace based upon our merit.
 - God is not under obligation to withdraw grace based upon our demerit.
3. Our justification by grace includes even the ability to receive it by faith. Cf Phil 1:29; Heb 12:2.
4. You cannot be *justified by grace alone* if you resent the idea of "free grace" (I.E. handouts?)

Grace Alone means my justification is secured solely by the work of Christ. Vs 24b.

1. Justification is all of Him -- He merited it through His redeeming work.
2. Justification is all of Him -- He merited it through His propitiatory work.
3. You cannot be *justified by grace alone* unless you believe alone in Christ alone. Cf. Rom 4:16.

Application:

1. Because justification is the gift of God (apart from works) -- you can be saved now!
2. Because justification is the gift of God -- you can be saved with certainty.
3. Because justification is the gift of God -- you should glory in God alone.