

Romans 3:19-21

But Now

1. A Transition to Salvation

- a. 1:18-3:20 - Condemnation ... 3:21-5:1 - Justification
- b. 3:21 'But now' is the threshold of transition from sinfulness to salvation.
- c. God's righteous judgment of sinners → God's righteous justification of sinners
- d. The gospel of your salvation is found in this section - Eph 1:13
- e. 3:21-26 is one of the most glorious sentences in all of scripture.

2. 3:19 - The Function of the Law

- a. People trip when rushing through transition: 'all... guilty' 'deeds of law' 'by the law...'
- b. "Now we know" - Paul's summary conclusion, also 'now' historically of Israel
- c. 2 things we know: 1) to whom the law speaks, 2) the outcome of what it says.
 - i. To whom? '*them ... under the law*' - Israel - 2:12,17, Matt 5:17-21, Jam 2:10-12
 - ii. Outcome? '*every mouth stopped*' - silence of proven guilty w/o excuse
 - iii. '*all the world... guilty*' - Israel fallen, both Jew/Gentile deserve wrath - 1:18
- d. Why was the law given? Because of transgression - Rom 4:15, Gal 3:19

3. 3:20 - None Justified by the Law

- a. '*Therefore*' - Since the law proves all guilty, it cannot declare you righteous.
 - i. The righteousness of the law - Deu 6:25, 32:45-47, Ps 7:8-9, Rom 7:12
- b. '*no flesh be justified*' - we have learned something since Rom 2:13, James 2:18-24
 - i. The law is powerless to justify - Jer 31:30-32, Isa 64:6, Heb 8:7, Rom 8:3
 - ii. Paul explaining Israel's law/testaments - here, Gal 2:16, 3:10-13, 2 Cor 3:7, 9
- c. '*knowledge of sin*' - The law is lawfully used for sinners to know sin - 1 Tim 1:7-11
 - i. The law was not a guard against sin, the strength of sin is the law - 1 Cor 15:56
 - ii. If you don't know sin by the law, you are doing it wrong - Rom 7:7

4. 3:21 - Righteousness Without the Law

- a. 'But now' - when is this 1) when Christ came? 2) He died? 3) Revealed to Paul?
 - i. The righteousness of God known to be by faith before Christ - Rom 1:17
 - ii. The righteousness of God seen through the law - Rom 2:5
 - iii. Christ's advent made faith in him manifestly required - Rom 10:3-4, Gal 3:21-25
 - iv. Israel's new covenant 'law in hearts' replaces the old 'law of Moses' - Heb 8:10
 - v. Righteousness of God by faith 'without the law' first to Paul - Acts 13:39
- b. *How can mystery truth be witnessed by them if it was hidden from them?*
 - i. Witnesses can support/confirm a truth without first revealing it.
 - ii. Paul manifests what the law/prophets witnessed - Job 25:4, Psa 143:2
- c. What was witnessed? None justified by law, all sinners, faith, Christ, salvation, grace
- d. What is now made manifest? Paul's gospel, Christ acc. to the mystery - Rom 16:25-26