

# Romans 3:21-24

## The Righteousness of God to Save

### 1. 3:21-26 - A Brief Overview: the Righteousness of God

- a. v21-26 is a one sentence gospel:
  - i. From God the righteous Judge (1:18-3:20) to God the righteous Saviour (21-26)
- b. 3 semicolons divide it to 4 statements that explain one another - v21, 22-23, 24-25, 26
- c. 4 colons provide further information about the immediate text - v22, 24, 26
- d. 3:26 is the conclusive statement of God's righteousness to save through Christ.

### 2. 3:21 - Without the Law

- a. *'But now'* - Something Jesus did not teach in his earthly ministry to Israel
- b. *'righteousness of God'* - which shows up in each statement - v22, 24, and 26
- c. *'without the law'* - God's righteousness no longer expressed by law: our doing deeds
  - i. God's operation no longer through the law people: Israel - Gal 6:15
  - ii. *'witnessed by law and prophets'* - testified not taught, recognized not revealed

### 3. 3:22 - By Faith of Jesus Christ

- a. *'by faith'* - defining for us what 'righteousness of God without the law' meant
  - i. The 'faith' here contrasts with 'deeds of the law' - Gal 2:16
  - ii. *'of Jesus Christ'* - The object of faith, content of faith, description of the belief.
    - 1. Not our belief in Jesus, neither Christ's faith in God (what?!)
      - 2. The faith of the gospel - Rom 1:5,3:3, 14:1, Gal 1:23, Col 2:7, Phi 1:27, 3:9
  - iii. Only Jesus Christ can make faith a vehicle for the righteousness of God. (3:25)

### 4. 3:22-23 - There is No Difference

- a. The 'all' statements refer to 'every mouth' 'all the world' and 'no flesh' 3:19-20
- b. *'unto all'* - the gospel manifest to all, offered to all, preached to all - Jew and Greek
- c. *'upon all that believe'* - Anyone can believe and be saved - Rom 1:16, Acts 16:31
- d. *'there is no difference'* - Between Jew and Gentile (a provocative statement to Israel)
- e. *'all have sinned'* - explains what is equal to all - a truth rejected by 73% of Americans
- f. *'all... come short of the glory of God'* - what defines a sin is bigger than we think
- g. What constitutes sin? Ps 10:4, Pro 24:9, Acts 8:22, Rom 14:23, Jam 4:17, 1Jo 3:4, 5:17

### 5. 3:24 - Justified By His Grace

- a. *'[sinners] being justified'* - ~def. to show/accept/judge to be right... *how?* (3:25)
- b. *'freely'* - the word Eve left out of Gen 2:16, and what makes grace today different
  - i. God has given his righteousness freely: w/o necessity, payment - 1 Cor 2:12
  - ii. Freely = Not by your works - Titus 3:5, Eph 2:8-9 (not cheap = work of Christ)
  - iii. Freely excludes water baptism, tongues, tithing, membership, confession, work
  - iv. 'Freely' aligns with 'without the law' 'by faith' and 'believeth'

- c. *'by his grace'* - a gift, kindness, good will, unmerited favor of God - first time since 1:7
  - i. Grace requires work/deed done/favor shown - what did God do?
- d. *'through the redemption'* - Redemption~*def.* Repurchase, deliver, make free, liberate.
  - i. This describes the 'faith of Jesus Christ' in 3:22
- e. *'that is in Christ Jesus'* - He paid the price, he delivers, he liberates you from...
  - ...sin, death, and the righteous wrath of God - with the righteous salvation of God.