

## **BIG WORDS OF SALVATION**

Wednesday, May 17

Reading: Romans 3:21-31

**Romans 3:22** *This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

After looking at the darkness and wickedness of human nature and declaring that there is no way for mankind to become right with God by their own efforts, the apostle now breaks through the gloom with the good news of God's righteousness. The message of the gospel is not in conflict with the Law in any way. In fact the Old Testament Law and prophets predicted the coming of the Savior.

Just as "all fall short of the glory of God" so all can receive God's righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ. All can be justified by God's grace. This is made possible by the death of Christ on our behalf. Thus God can be "just" because the penalty for our sins was paid by Christ. And He is also the "One who justifies" because He places Christ's righteousness to our account and declares us right with God.

Paul again stresses the fact that the Law cannot save. No one has any reason to boast about their salvation because they had nothing to do with it! It was all by the grace of God. Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by faith in Christ. The purpose of the Law of Moses is fulfilled when it leads a person to saving faith in Jesus Christ (see Galatians 3:23-25).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1. "Justified Freely by His Grace Through the Redemption." These are some big important words we need to understand. '**Justified**' means that God declares guilty sinners to be righteous because of the death of Christ in their place. '**Grace**' is God giving us what we don't deserve – His free gift of salvation. '**Redemption**' has to do with paying a debt. Christ paid the debt we owed (death) and died in our place, setting us free to serve Him. '**Sacrifice of atonement**' is translated in Hebrews 9:5 as "atonement cover" or mercy seat – the place in the Tabernacle where the blood was sprinkled to atone for the people's sins. Romans 3:25-26 does not suggest that God did not pay attention to sins committed in the past. It says that in His patience and love He did not bring immediate condemnation down on the sinner. The moment we sin God would be perfectly just to send us immediately to hell. But God allows us a chance to repent and turn to Him for forgiveness (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30-31). Take some time today to meditate on these important words. What do they tell us about God? What do they tell us about ourselves and the salvation God has given us?
2. "Apart From the Works of the Law." Any church or preacher who says you must DO something to be saved is selling you one of Satan's biggest lies! We must confess that we are not good enough, but Christ is! We do not earn "brownie points" with God to get to heaven. Salvation is a gift of God's grace. Faith is simply putting our trust in what Christ has already done. "Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe."