

# Heart of the Gospel

## Part 2 – The Most Important Paragraph

### Romans 3.21-26

How Stuff Works – why it's the most important paragraph

*Dikaios* family of words – righteousness / justify

- God's justifying activity of humanity, making us right with Him

#### **Willing (v.21-24)**

- God knows the mess we are and the mess we are in
  - Remember all the horror of 3.10-18? By works of law...
- God moves toward us anyway – BUT NOW / Glorious Comma / Could-Would
  - He always has been – it's a single story He's telling though this is a new chapter

#### **Able (v.24-25)**

- Payment was made by His blood
- Payment was made to vindicate God
  - His character is in question if He doesn't fully punish sin as He promised – if you don't get this then you don't get Him and the situation
  - He has passed over sin and pursued His people (Psalm 103.10)
    - But should He have? To make little of punishment is to misunderstand the problem
  - His character is in question if he doesn't fully forgive sin as He promised
    - He has promised as far as east is from the west (Psalm 103.12)
  - Col. 2.13-14 – ALL sin paid for at the cross by Jesus
- Propitiation – paying our debt and purchasing favor
  - We are justified by His grace gift – NOTHING we could do to earn it
  - We are redeemed – set free to rightly relate to Him
  - Relate to Him as Savior – Lord – Father – Helper – Provider – Healer - King

#### **Committed (v.26)**

- He is just in saving us
- He is the justifier who saves us – His initiative
  - “Our own justification before God rests on the solid reality that the fulfilling of God's justice in Christ was at the same time the fulfilling of His love for us”  
~ Philip Hughes, *True Image* p. 360
- Our response: put our faith in Jesus
  - Comprehension – Conviction – Commitment

### Questions for Discussion

1. Reread Romans 3.10-18 and Ephesians 2.1-3. What language is most striking to you about our spiritual condition apart from Christ? How do you see this exhibited in our culture?
2. Read Leviticus 16.7-10 regarding the ceremony on the Day of Atonement. What parallels do you see between the ceremony and the sacrifice of Jesus?
3. In the sermon, Trent argued that this paragraph helps us see the inner workings of the saving work of God. How are these inner workings on display in v.25? When you read "Payment was made to vindicate God," what is your response? How much thought have you given to how the death of Jesus defends God's honor? How does Colossians 2.13-14 help you understand it and its importance?
4. How do you understand God being both just and the justifier? Where do you see people separating these two aspects of God? How does that give us an incomplete view of who God is?