

THE ULTIMATE WAY MAKER

ROMANS 3:21-27 | ERIC SIMPSON | OCTOBER 16, 2022

Romans 3:21-26

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

righteousness = dikaiosuné = having God's approval

"No other place offers this. Outside of the gospel, we must develop a righteousness, and offer it to God, and say (hopefully and anxiously): Accept me. The gospel says that God has developed a perfect righteousness, and he offers it to us, and by it we are accepted. This is the uniqueness of the Christian gospel; and it reverses what every other religion and worldview...believes."

- Timothy Keller

Four layers to this "righteousness from God"...

1. It comes through faith in Jesus Christ (v. 22)

"Christianity is not primarily a teaching, or a philosophy or a way of life. It is before everything else a relationship to a person..All along the Bible shuts us down to this ONE matter, and holds us up against this ONE thing—it refuses to even discuss our questions and our problems with us. Before you can discuss how to live, it says, 'What have you made of Him?'"

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981)

2. It cannot come through our own efforts (v. 23)

3. It is given freely (v. 24)

freely = without cause, wholly unwarranted, given for no reason

grace = getting what we don't deserve mercy = not getting what we do deserve

4. It is grounded in the cross (v. 25)

"God demand whatever you wish, and provide for whatever you demand." - St. Augustine

Romans 3:27

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

"What you boast in is what gives you confidence to go out and face the day. It is the thing of which you say: *I am a somebody because I have that. I can beat what comes against me today because I am this.* What you boast in is what fundamentally defines you; it is where you draw your identity and self-worth from." - Timothy Keller

For a Christian, the boasting issue is settled in the righteousness issue.