

The Wretchedness of Man and the Righteousness of God

Part 2 – The Gospel and Divine Righteousness

Romans 3:21-31

October 6, 2019

- I. The Gospel Manifests God's Righteousness (vs. 21-22a; 25b-26)
- II. The Gospel Redeems through Christ's Righteousness (vs. 22b-25a)
- III. The Gospel Excludes Human Righteousness (v. 27)
- IV. The Gospel Provides Righteousness apart from the Law, yet upholds the Law (vs. 28-31)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 6, 2019

Passage: Romans 3:21-31

Memory Passage: Romans 3:23-26

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:21-31** What is the meaning of the words “But now” in verse 21 and “at the present time” in v. 26? How are these words related to the previous section in verses 9-20?
- (b) In what sense has God’s righteousness been manifested “apart from the law?”
- (c) How do the Law and the Prophets bear witness to this “righteousness of God” that Paul is writing about?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:21-31** Write a short paragraph explaining the meaning of the words from v.22: “...*the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*”
- (b) What does it mean to “*fall short of the glory of God*” (v.23)?
- (c) Using a Bible dictionary or other similar resource, look up the meaning of the Greek word *hilasterion*, translated as either “propitiation” (ESV, NASB, KJV) or “atoning sacrifice” (CSB, NIV) and write down your observations. (v.25)

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:21-31** How does the propitiatory sacrifice of Jesus Christ demonstrate God’s righteousness (v.25)?
- (b) In what sense did God pass over “former sins” (v.25)? Did He just ignore them? If not, how can it be said that He passed over them?
- (c) Verse 26 is important in gaining a proper understanding of this passage. Explain in your own words what it means for God to “*be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*”.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:21-31; James 2:14-26** What is the “law of faith” in Rom. 3:27, and how does it exclude our boasting?
- (b) How do you reconcile Paul’s words in Rom. 3:21-31 with those of James in Jas. 2:14-26?

- (c) What is the point that Paul is making in verse 29 by asking the questions: “*is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also?*”? Why would this concept have been important to his readers?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:21-31** Paul uses the word “law” eight different times in this section. In one case (v.21) it is used as: “the Law and the Prophets.” In verse 27 as: “the law of faith.” How does Paul use the word “law” in each of the other six references? Is it a continuation of the idea of “The Law and the Prophets,” a reference to the Law of Moses, the principle of “law” in a general sense, or something else?
- (b) How would you answer someone who argues that since people are not saved by works but by faith, then if they stopped believing (i.e. lose their faith) they would lose their salvation?
- (c) How does Paul’s teaching in this passage uphold the law (v.31)?

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