

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 3:21-31 The Law's Faithful Redeemer

Because we believe the testimony of God's law against us and for Christ as the faithful Redeemer, we uphold the Law.

- 3:21: "the Law and the Prophets bear witness to" the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe"—The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) teaches the gospel of justification through faith alone in Christ alone.

1) We uphold the holiness of God's Law by believing its testimony against us (3:23).

- a) Summary of Romans 1:16-3:20: "For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- b) 3:28: "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."—This is necessary because "by works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight" (3:20)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Minimizing your sin dishonor's the Law.
 - ii) Dishonoring the Law strikes at the holiness of the Law-Giver.

2) We uphold the righteousness of God's Law by believing its testimony for Christ's faithfulness (3:21-22).

- a) Why not follow ESV translation "faith in Jesus Christ" (3:22)?
 - i) Genitive construction more natural "of Jesus Christ"
 - ii) Greek term *pistis* both "faith" and "faithfulness"
 - iii) ESV translation makes "for all who believe" redundant
- b) 3:21: "the righteousness of God"—covenant faithfulness of God
- c) 3:22: "the faithfulness of Jesus Christ"—covenant faithfulness of New Humanity in Christ as representative of His people
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Believe in the imputation of Christ's righteousness as the One who fulfills all the conditions of the Covenant for you.
 - ii) Search the Gospels studiously and devotionally for greater understanding and appreciation of Christ's perfect humanity as your righteousness.
 - iii) Study the Law of Moses with careful attention to the moral purity and perfection of love required therein as it foreshadows the perfect humanity of Christ.

3) We uphold the grace of God's Law by believing its testimony for Christ's redeeming sacrifice (3:24-25a).

- a) 3:24a: "justified by His grace as a gift"—God's grace as Covenant Lord
- b) 3:24b: "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"—Exodus
- c) 3:25: "whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood"—God satisfies the Covenant sanctions; fulfillment of sacrificial system of the Law
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Only this grace shows God's righteousness in forgiveness.
 - ii) Boasting is excluded.

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Application: By thus upholding the law we are put on friendly terms with the Law for its Third Use in the power of the Spirit (Romans 6-8).

Doxology: Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be on Your people! (Psalm 3:8)