

“God’s Satisfaction In Christ”

Romans 3:19-31

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Teaching Aim: To demonstrate “*the righteousness of God*” covers only those who by grace through faith trust Jesus Christ alone for salvation and not in their works. To show that we are all sinners who fall short of the glory of God and need a Savior. To realize only Jesus can protect us from the coming wrath of God because of sin and provide satisfaction to the Father that covers our sin. To illustrate God is both just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:19-23)

1. According to **verse 19**, what happens when we compare ourselves to the holy standards of God’s law? How would you feel on Judgment Day if a DVD of your entire life was played before God and the innumerable angels in heaven revealing everything that you’ve ever said, thought, or done? Would you pass the test of God’s holy standards, or would you be a miserable failure? Will there be any defense for you on Judgment Day apart from the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ? According to **Gal. 3:24**, what is the ultimate purpose of God’s law?
2. Whenever we see the word “*therefore*” in Scripture, we know that a conclusion is coming. What conclusion did Paul come to in **verse 20**? According to **verse 20**, can we be saved by following the stipulations of the Mosaic Law? If not, then why are so many religions in the world work oriented rather than by faith alone? Do our works as a Christian come before or after salvation? (See **Eph. 2:8-10**) According to **verse 20**, what else can we learn about the law?
3. One of the greatest words in the Bible is the little three letter word “*but*.” What makes this little word so important? After demonstrating the fact that both Jews and Gentiles alike are lost in sin, Paul revealed God’s sovereign plan to free us from our desperate situation in **verses 21 & 22**. What is God’s plan and how is it accomplished “*apart from the law*?” How do we see the message of Jesus Christ being witnessed to in both “*the Law and the Prophets*” (**vs. 21**)? (See **Gen. 3:15; Deut. 18:18-19; Psalms. 22:1,16-18; 110:1-4; Isa. 53:1-11**)

4. What kind of righteousness is Paul referring to in **verse 22**? Who are the only people who receive this righteousness as a gift from God? How would you define the word “*righteousness*?” (See Dictionary) When speaking of this kind of righteousness theologically, there are two major schools: 1) Those who believe in “*imparted righteousness*” (that we literally become righteous in and of ourselves); and 2) Those who believe in “*imputed righteousness*” (that the righteousness of Christ is applied to our account; as a result, God sees us clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and we are forgiven). Which position does our church hold to? Why? Which position does the Roman Catholic Church hold to?

5. What sad news is revealed about the human race in **verse 23**? The Greek word used for “*sinned*” is “*he’marton*,” from the root word “*hamarano*” – meaning “*to miss the mark*.” Why is an archer continuously “*missing the mark*” a good illustration of the sinner’s relationship to the law? Can we ever measure up? The Greek in **verse 23** is in the present tense. What does this teach us about our ability as fallen human beings to hit the target? What is Paul describing when he says that we “*fall short of the glory of God*?”

Part II: Being justified freely by the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24-26)

1. The verb “*justification*” and various related forms of the Greek root word are used some 30x in the Book of Romans. What does the word “*justification*” mean (**vs. 24**)? (See Dictionary) Why is justification so important to our salvation? There are two other critical words related to our salvation found in **verse 24**, these are “*grace*” and “*redemption*.” Define each word and explain how they relate to the salvation process.

2. “*Propitiation*” is a word that we don’t use too often in modern English but is very important when it comes to theology (or the study of God). Define the word “*propitiation* (**vs. 25**)”. (See Dictionary) How does “*the propitiation of Christ*” in the New Testament relate to “*the Day of Atonement*” and “*the Mercy Seat*” in the Old Testament. (See **Lev. 16:15-22**) It is interesting that the Mercy Seat in the Old Testament was private and found in the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest could go, just once a year on the Day of Atonement. What do the words “*God set forth as a propitiation*” reveal to us about the atonement of Jesus Christ (**vs. 25**)?

3. Would it have been enough for Christ to simply scratch his hand on a nail and bleed a little bit for the atonement to take effect (**vs. 25**)? If not, why not? What absolutely had to happen? (See **Rom. 5:8-9; 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 3:13-14**) What does the word “*forbearance*” mean? (See Dictionary) How does this forbearance relate to Old Testament believers (or those believers who were alive before the cross)? On what basis were the Old Testament saints saved? How does this differ from New Testament salvation?

4. What two acts will demonstrate God’s righteousness according to **verse 26**? In what way is the cross of Christ the greatest demonstration of God’s love ever? How is the cross of Christ also a demonstration of God’s justice and His wrath? Describe what it means for God to be both “*just*” and “*the one who justifies*” those who have faith in Jesus (**vs. 26**). Who are the only people that receive this “*imputed righteousness*” of Jesus Christ according to **verse 26**?

Part III: Where is boasting? It is excluded by the law of faith (Rom. 3:27-31)

1. If it was the Lord who did all the work behind the scenes for our salvation, how many saved individuals have room for self-pride and boasting (**vs. 27**)? Does the fact that we received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord make us smarter or better than our family members and friends who did not? If not, why not? (See **1 Cor. 4:7; Gal. 6:14; Eph. 2:8-9**) How should the statement “*we are sinners saved by grace*” affect the way we live our lives around other people?

2. What conclusion did Paul come to in **verse 28**? What does the word “*justified*” mean in this context? (See Commentaries or Study Bible footnotes) Describe in your own words what it means to be “*justified by grace through faith in Christ alone*”? Martin Luther believed Paul’s teaching that “a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” so strongly that he wrestled with for a season and doubted the inspiration of the Book of James. Does **James 2:24** seem to contradict **Romans 3:28**? Why or why not? Luther eventually came around and agreed that the Book of James belongs in the Bible.
 Note: Picture a tree. Paul meant that “*justification by faith alone*” is the root of our salvation, while James meant “*justification by works*” is the fruit of our salvation. James was implying that our justification was “*proved right*” by the works that we do after salvation.

3. What major mystery do we see being revealed in **verse 29**? (See **Eph. 3:1-7**) Why would this teaching be so difficult for many of Paul's Jewish readers? According to **Eph. 3:4-5**, who was the One who ultimately revealed this mystery? According to **Eph. 3:6**, the mystery is "*that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel...*" Why is this good news for the majority of Christians in the world today?

4. According to **verse 30**, how many gods are there? Is there a different means of salvation for both the Jews and the Gentiles, or is it the same? If you had the opportunity to share the gospel with someone, how would you do it? (*Hint: Try using the "Romans Road" taking them through the following Scriptures: Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8-9; 10:9-10*) Another group of effective verses to use in sharing the gospel would include: **Rom. 3:23; 1 John 4:14; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 3:16.**

5. Many "*antinomians*" (meaning those against the law) think that there is no place for the law of God in this day and age. Is there (**vs. 31**)? Did Jesus come to reject the law or to fulfill it? (See **Matt. 5:17-18**) According to **verse 31**, does our "*faith in Christ*" nullify the law or does it confirm it?

6. The gospel means "*good news*" for good reason, we must understand the bad news of sin and the coming wrath of God because of it before we can understand the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. According to **Hebrews 9:26-28**, what can the Christian who loves Jesus eagerly anticipate? Have you repented of your sin and received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in the quietness of this moment. If you have wandered away from the faith and need to rededicate your life to Christ, why not do so today? If you do either, today will be the first day of the rest of your life in your journey with Jesus!

MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!*

- The Mosaic Law points us to our need for Jesus Christ; not one of us measures up to the holy standards of God's law and is fully capable of keeping it.
- Paul teaches us that nobody will be saved by their attempts to follow the law of God.
- Every person who has ever lived has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, that is except for Jesus who is fully God and fully Man.
- The righteousness we receive from Christ is an "*imputed righteousness*," it is a banking term signifying the righteousness of Jesus Christ has been applied to our account.
- Born-again (or regenerate) Christians are thus robed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- **Romans 3:26** teaches us that God is both "*just and the justifier*" of the one who have faith in Jesus.
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, there is no other way to salvation.