

## Romans 3:21-26

**3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God *which is by faith of Jesus Christ* unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**

There are two types of righteousness: There is a righteousness which is of the law (obeying the law) and there is righteousness without the law. As we saw last week, by the deeds of the law no one will be justified before God. Sin is not taken away by good works, it has never ever been that way, only blood can make atonement for the soul. We saw from scripture that only the blood of Jesus Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, is sufficient to pay for our sins, forgive our sins, take away our sins, appease the wrath of God, and reconcile us back unto God.

By the righteousness which is of the law, no one is just before God. In fact, the prophet Isaiah said all our righteousness are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Now we as Christians will be judged according to our own righteousness (obedience to the word of LORD) at the judgment seat of Christ to determine our rewards (2 Corinthians 5:10-11, 1 Corinthians 3:8-16), not if we go to heaven or hell – **it is important that you understand that.**

So what is the righteousness of God that is spoken of here? He goes on to state that the law and the prophets have spoken of God's righteousness without the law before. We read about God's righteousness without the law in Isaiah and Micah (Isaiah 46:12-13, 51:4-8, 56:1, 62:1, 62:11, Micah 7:9).

God's righteousness is Jesus Christ, and specifically the faith of Jesus Christ. Notice it does not say faith in Jesus Christ. Because of the faith of Christ (because he obeyed the LORD in all things and was faithful, without sin), when you put your faith in him, you receive his righteousness as if it were your own (Romans 1:16-17).

That is why when God looks at you, he sees you as his son because you look like Jesus Christ. After all, the Spirit of Christ dwells in you (Galatians 4:6), you are part of his body (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:30, 1 Corinthians 12:27) you are wearing Jesus Christ's righteousness (Romans 3:22), he sees the blood of his Son upon your house (Exodus 12:13). He looks like you as if you were Jesus Christ. That's a good thing!

**3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

Even though we are sons of God, now that we have been saved, being born again by the word of God which lives and abides forever, there is no difference between us and the unsaved man, **FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.** People think you can lose your salvation because of sin committed after being born again. If that's true, we might as well quit and go home now. But thank God it's not true. The Apostle Paul, who was caught up to heaven, sinned and struggled with his flesh just like you and me and resisted the will of the Holy Ghost repeatedly (Romans 7, Acts 21-22).

You want to know why Paul could say, I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (2 Timothy 1:12), and why Paul could say when he dies he goes to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-8), and how he could say he was going to

get a crown at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Timothy 4:7-8)? Because he believed he was saved only by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. He didn't count on his own righteousness to save him (Galatians 2:16-21), he was counting on the righteousness and faith of Christ to save him: and it did! The scripture says Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes (Romans 10:1-4).

If you have the righteousness of Christ, you can know for sure you are saved and are going to heaven! If you are trusting in your faith and works and not solely upon the faith and righteousness of Jesus Christ, you will never know for sure, because you are not saved or are confused doctrinally. You are reckoning the gift of debt (Romans 4:3-5). But if you don't work for it, but believe on God that justifies the ungodly based upon the faith and righteousness of Jesus Christ, you are given God's righteousness!

**If you have been saved, that is born again, and the Spirit of God dwells in you, JESUS said the Holy Ghost will abide with you forever (John 14:16) and that God has predestinated you to get a brand new sinless, holy, incorruptible body one day (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5, 11-14)!**

Well what if some believes and then later on doesn't believe? If a man at some point did believe on Jesus Christ, he was born again, and the Spirit of God entered into him and there abides forever. No matter what happens after that, that man is safe and secure. You cannot be unborn of God.

People get screwed up here because they look to the Old Testament or Hebrews through Revelation where people have lost or can lose the Holy Ghost. Remember the mandate by God Almighty to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

Important things to remember:

- There is no eternal security under the Old Testament, with the exception of David (who is a picture of our salvation)
- There is no eternal security during the tribulation, except for the 144,000 Male Virgin Jews.
- There is no new birth, no one born again, and no kingdom of God from Adam to Jesus Christ. That is why no human being is called a son of God from Adam to Jesus Christ. But after the resurrection of Christ, those that receive him, become sons of God.
- The church started after the resurrection of Christ and ends at the rapture of the church. There is a limit to the amount of people part of the church. If you are part of the church, the body of Christ, you have eternal security.

**3:24-26 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.**

How are we justified? Not by the law, not by good deeds, not by works – we are justified **FREELY BY HIS GRACE**. Did you get that? Did you know the 12 Apostles and Paul believed that (Acts 15:11)? They believed they were saved by God's grace.

Notice, where is justification freely found? Jesus Christ. Where is redemption found? Jesus Christ. Why? Because God has set Jesus Christ to be a propitiation through faith in his blood. That word propitiation means the act of appeasing wrath and reconciling the favor of an offended person! WHOOOOOOOOO Glory! The death of Jesus Christ was for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2, 4:10 Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 10-23, Hebrews 2:9). His death satisfied God's wrath and judgment against my sin and your sin! When God saw the travail of the soul of Jesus Christ, he was satisfied. The Father said, that'll do. My holy wrath is appeased. NOW (Hallelujah) I can make peace with man; NOW I can forgive man of all his sin, NOW I don't have to punish man for his sin, NOW I can be reconciled with man; NOW I can fellowship with man; NOW I can dwell with man – and be just in doing so!

But notice you must have faith in his blood in order for the transaction to occur. In order to see on your receipt in glory land, **PAID IN FULL**, you must put your faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. This is just like the Passover.

Praise God, the blood of the lamb was slain, but until you applied the blood to your house the way God said to do it, you were not saved from death. You see those that applied the blood the way God said to do it, exercised faith in the blood, that that blood would save their firstborn from death. Even though lamb's blood was slain, until it was applied personally to their house, they were not saved from the destroyer. Likewise, until a man applies the shed blood of Christ personally to themselves, they are not saved.

When a man believes in his heart and calls upon the name of the Lord, he is exercising faith in the blood of Jesus Christ; therefore God looks at it and says, Get me some of that blood and lets sprinkle some of that blood on that evil conscience of his, let's get out that book of life and use that blood to write down his name therein; let's take some of that blood and pour that upon that record of all his sin that it may be washed away in the blood of the Lamb and forgotten.

Now it's been applied, he has paid me in full, now I am going to go down there and introduce myself to this man! Shalom Alechem, Brian, Fear not, and be no longer afraid, I am the LORD, it's so nice to meet you; I'm so glad we can finally get to know each other!

Would you mind if I dwell with you from now on? Would you mind if I want to stick around with you forever? Would you mind if I took care of you from now on? Would you mind if I came to visit you every now and then? Would you mind having love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance from now on? Would you mind if I lead you and guide you into all truth? Brian, do you want to know me?

YEA LORD, I sure would like to know you!

Well then, walk with me and you will!

**“to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, / say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”**

Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; God is able to declare himself righteous for forgiving sins of the past (i.e. forgiving people of sins under the Old Testament). God was forgiving people under the Old Testament of their sins without really any grounds for doing so. But God was looking to the cross (not man), and was forgiving men based upon that future sacrifice. So now that the blood of Christ has been shed, the angels, the devils, and men know God is righteous in forgiving man, and that he was and is just in doing so!

Now all know that he is righteous and just and that he is the **justifier of him which believes in Jesus!**

That means, if you believe in Jesus, God will justify you! Hallelujah! The Lord says, if you believe in Jesus, don't worry about justifying yourself, I have already taken care of that for you, among countless other things. You are just now in my sight. You are holy now in my sight. You are a son now in my sight.

How is all this possible? **Because of Jesus.**

That's why we are here tonight. That is why we meet every Thursday night. That is why we gather together with the saints of God every week at church: **because of Jesus.**

That's why we sing about Jesus, that's why we love Jesus, that's why we worship Jesus, that's why we adore Jesus, that's why we brag on Jesus and praise his holy name; that's why we talk about Jesus and tell others about Jesus.

**Because one day, he took me in one of his nail-pierced hands, and took God's hand in the other, and brought me back to God my Father, and my Creator (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).**

Matthew 11:27 and John 17:3.

This is what it's about.