

R O M A N S
Our Message to the World
AMEN Bible Study 2015-2016

The Heart of the Gospel

Romans 3:21-31

October 29, 2015

3:21-26 **I. God justifies sinners.**

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested...*

cf. Deuteronomy 25:1; Proverbs 17:15

“Righteousness of God” = His righteous character, faithfulness to His covenant
= His gift of righteousness (justification) for sinners

:21b

A. Apart from the law

...apart from the law,...

“Law” = Old Testament

= Old Testament moral code

= Jewish customs

= moral principle

:21c

B. Foretold in the Old Testament

...although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

cf. Romans 1:2; 16:2b; Luke 1:55, 70; 24:44-47; John 5:39

:22

C. Through faith in Jesus Christ

²² *...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*

“Faith” = 5x – 3:22, 25, 26, 27, 28

1. Simply trusting in Jesus

2. Solely trusting in Jesus

3. Sincerely trusting in Jesus

:22b-24a

D. Equally for all

...For there is no distinction...

:23

1. All are equally in need of justification.

²³ *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,...*

:24a

2. All are equally justified by grace.

²⁴ *...and are justified by his grace as a gift,...*

:24b-25a

E. Through redemption in Christ Jesus

...through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...,

cf. Leviticus 25:47ff; Exodus 15:13; Isaiah 43:1; Mark 10:45

:25a

1. At God’s initiative

²⁵ *...whom God put forward...*

Stott: “...God gave himself to save us from himself.”

:25b

2. As a substitutionary atonement

...as a propitiation by his blood,...

:25c

3. Received by faith

...to be received by faith.

- :25d-26 F. For the display of His righteousness
This was to show God's righteousness,...
- :25d 1. His forbearance
...because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.
- :26 2. His justice
²⁶ *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
- Stott: "It (the Cross) not only accomplished the propitiation of God and the redemption of sinners; it also vindicated the justice of God."
- :27-31 **II. Justified sinners are obligated.**
- :27, 28 A. No boasting
²⁷ *Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.* ²⁸ *For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*
 cf. Philippians 3:3ff; Ephesians 2:9; I Corinthians 1:31; Galatians 6:14; Psalm 34:2; Jeremiah 9:23, 24
- :29, 30 B. No racial discrimination
²⁹ *Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,* ³⁰ *since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*
 • Same Creator
 • Same need
 • Same salvation
- :31 C. No antinomianism
³¹ *Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.*
 cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 19:7-11; 119:34; Romans 7:12; James 2:14-17