

(14) "Apart from the Law": Justification by Grace through Faith (3:21-26)

# Romans: The Outwork of the Righteousness of God

# Justification!—Line of Thought

- The Way to Salvation thru Works in the Law Is Blocked (Impossible to Go thru) (1:18–3:20).
- There Is Another Way (and the Only Way): Justification by Grace through Faith (3:21-26).
- The New Way Requires Exclusivity: By Grace Alone, and through Faith Alone (3:27-31).
- The New Way Was Illustrated by the Life of Abraham (Ch 4).
- The New Life Was Necessitated by the Law (Ch 5).

# One Essential Passage of the Bible

- <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say,* of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.  
(Rom 3:21-26 NAU)

# Apart from the Law

- The Law Was Given to Israel after Their Deliverance from the Slavery in Egypt.
  - It Was Not a Condition for the Physical “Salvation,” Which Came to Them because of God’s Grace and Faithfulness.
  - It Was a List of Rightful Responses to God’s Grace.
  - It Was a Guide to a Blessed Life in the Promised Land.
  - It Was a Standard of Judgment for Failure to Obey.
  - It Was a Prophecy of the Messiah Who Will Save & Restore.
  - It Implied the Necessary Faith for the Spiritual Salvation.
- The Law Never Pretended to Be the Way for
  - The Spiritual Salvation of Mankind, Not Even
  - The Physical Restoration of Israel!

# Righteousness of God Manifested

- God Is Righteous.
  - God Is Love, but He Is Also Holy and Righteous/Just.
  - He Is Righteous and Just Totally and Absolutely.
  - There is No Sin, Evil or Darkness in God.
  - The Pagan Idea of Purchasable gods Are Wrong.
- God Demand Righteousness.
  - The Righteous God Must Judge Sins.
  - By the Law: Israel Was Exiled after Disobedience.
  - The Liberal Idea of Universal Salvation is Wrong.
- God Provides Righteousness.
  - God Sovereignly Elects, Redeems, Forgives and Justifies.
  - Apart from the Law: Christ Died for the Sinners.
  - The Legalist Idea of Work Salvation Is Wrong.
  - The Pelagian or Arminian Ideas of Cooperative Salvation Is Wrong.

# Witnessed by Law & Prophets

- The Law:
  - Revealed the Character of God.
  - Gave the Standard of Judgment.
- The Prophets:
  - Condemned the Failures before the Law.
  - Warned of the Coming Judgment.
  - Required of Repentance.
  - Re-declared the Faithfulness of God.
  - Introduced the Coming Messiah.
  - Prophesied about the Final Restoration.
- Jesus Christ Is the Person Whom the Law and the Prophets (OT) Pointed to: He Provide the Way.
  - It Seems to Be a “New Way” (to the Jews).
  - It Was Always “the Way”: Salvation through Faith in the Grace of God.
  - It Is the Only Way.

# Righteousness of God to All

- God Gives/Imparts His Righteousness...
  - He Is Righteous.
  - He Demands All Around Him to Be Righteous.
  - He Sovereignly Gives His Righteousness.
- To All Who Believe in Jesus Christ.
  - Not to All People (Universal Salvation).
  - Only to All Who Believe (Have Faith):
    - Through Men's Faith in Jesus Christ.
    - Not (just) though the Faith of Jesus Christ.

# No Distinction

- More Than between
  - The Jews and the Gentiles;
  - The “Good People” and the “Bad People”;
  - The Western People and the “Rest of the World”;
  - The American People and the “Other People”.
- **“All Have Sinned!”**—All Except Christ.
- All Fell Short of the Glory of God.
  - Glory (Gk: *doxa*: Opinion [orthodox, heterodox, paradox] => Good Opinion, => Persons of Good Reputation ): Lordliness (Herrlichkeit), Nobleness of Character
  - Glory of God:
    - The Image of God Placed in Men at the Creation.
    - The Image of Christ Believers Are Destined to Become Like.



# Justified by Grace

- Justification:
  - Is More Than the Waiving of Punishment or Being Given Forgiveness.
  - It Is to Be Declared as Not Guilty, and to Be Given the Status of Total Righteousness.
- As a Gift by Grace:
  - It Is Totally Undeserved
  - It Is by the Sovereign Graceful Decision of God
  - It Is a Gift, and Cannot Be Purchased

# Through the Redemption

- Redemption Is the Payment of a Demanded Price.
- To Whom It Was Paid to Was Not Clearly Said in the Scripture:
  - It Is Unlikely a Payment by God to Satan, Who Controlled Us, by Did Not Own Us.
  - It Is More Likely a Payment to God's Attribute of Justice, Which Sinners Are under, so that Believers May Be Moved to Be under the Attributes of Mercy and Love.

# Publicly Displayed Propitiation

- Jesus' Death on the Cross Is a Public Display of God's Seriousness about the Penalty for Sin.
- The OT High Priests Made Propitiation by Sprinkling the Blood of the Lamb on the Mercy Seat, but Only in the Holy of Holies.
- Propitiation Is the Quieting of God's Wrath by Covering the Law with the Blood of the Innocent.
- Christ Is the Final and Only Real Lamb of God Who Can Take Away the Sin of the World.
- Have Faith in Christ's Redemption as the Payment of Personal Sin Is the Way of Regeneration/Justification.

# Demonstration of Righteousness

- Through Christ's Death, God Publicly Defended His Reputation of Justice (Sin => Death).
- Forbearance:
  - God "Passed over Sins Previously Committed" (Did Not Punish Sins Immediately for the Time before Christ), due to His Forbearance.
  - Some People Thought that God Is Not Serious about Sin, esp. of His People.
  - God Cleared His Name by Killing His Begotten Son.

# At the Present Time

- God Demonstrated through Christ on Cross in This Present Age of Grace (Church Age) that:
  - He Is Righteous and Just.
  - He Demand Righteousness (through Death), and
  - He Gives Righteousness (through Faith in Grace):  
“He Is the Justifiers of Those Who Have Faith in Jesus Christ”

# Lessons and Applications

- God Is Righteous through and through.
- God Demands Righteousness (Sameness in Character with Him) for People to Be around Him.
- There Is No Way Men Can Obtain This Righteousness through Works in the Law.
- There Is a Way Apart from the Law: The Way of Grace through Faith.

# Lessons and Applications

- Christ Is God's Demonstration of His Righteousness (Seriousness about Sin).
- Christ's Death on the Cross Is the Propitiation that Quieted God's Wrath against Sin.
- Faith in Christ Is the Way for Believers to Be Imparted the Righteousness of Christ/God.
- By Being Justified and Regenerated, Believers Have Eternal Life.
- Believers Will Be Forever Grateful to the Righteous God, Who Justified Them through His Grace.