

Romans 3:21 - 31



Concentrate

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Continuing from Chapter 3

NEW!

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

- 1, Something new after man's failure
- 2, Making a relationship with him
- 3, (from/of) *(remember both hands?)*
- 4, Small & capital 'L' in Law?
('apart' from strictly fulfilling rules)
- 5, the (Law) Torah & Prophets = the Bible
- 6, 'testify' - the Bible doesn't provide it but promises it

cf. 1:17 **This is the heart
of the Good News**

Righteousness



Relationship

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus
Christ to all who believe.

*(A confusing translation – it repeats itself)
“faith in & believe”*

1, righteousness of God

2, The original says the ‘faith of Jesus’

That means the ‘faithfulness’ of Jesus

God → **Jesus** → **believers**

God’s
pardoning
justice and the
covenant
relationship with
him

is provided
through the
faithful
obedience of
his Son

and becomes
available to all
believers
(Jew & gentile)

There is no difference,
for **all** have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God,

1, 'fall short' - missing the mark =
summary of chapters 1 & 2

2, **the glory of God**

- 1, God's approval
- 2, God's standard
- 3, God's reward

Missed!



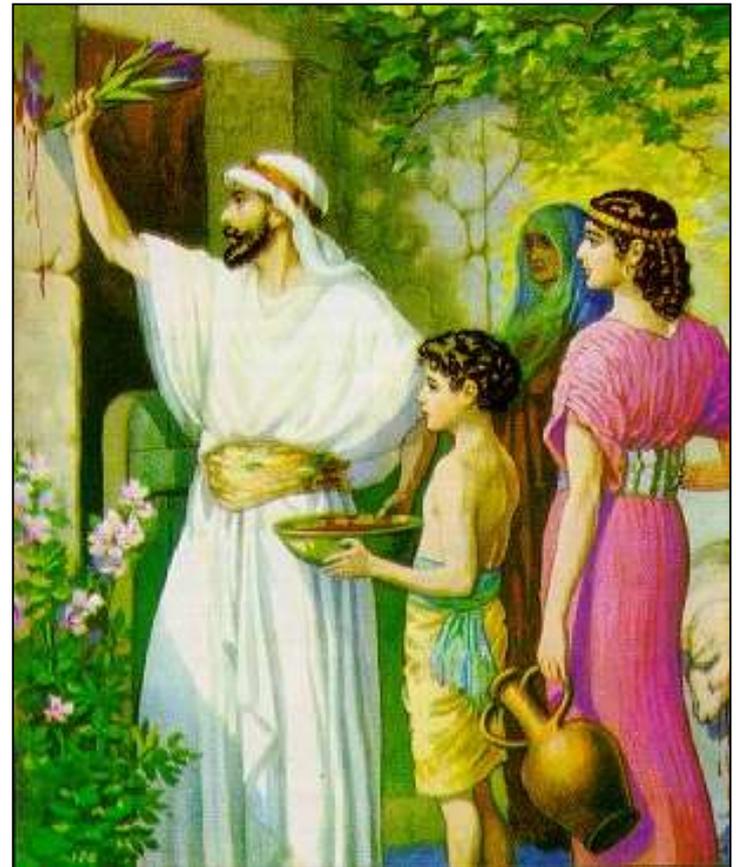
ALL are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- 1, **justified** declared righteous
ie. in a right relationship
- 2, **by grace** completely undeserved
or earned
- 3, **redemption**



This is
Passover language!

But we are not redeemed from
Egyptian slavery but from sin.



How did he do it?

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in his blood (sacrificial death).

In the Leviticus' sacrificial offerings Guilt is transferred to the offering to meet the demands of the broken laws of relationship to make
AT-ONE-MENT



The Mercy Seat

Jesus takes the place of the Lamb



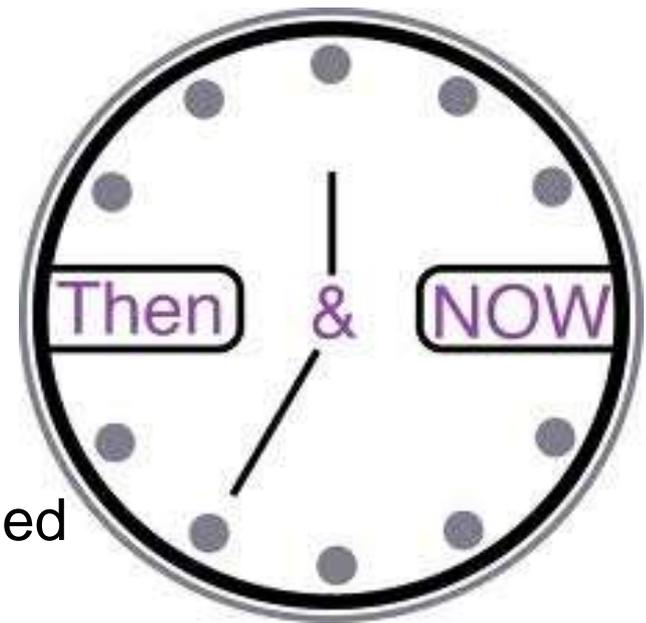
Why did he do it?

3:25-26

Because he loves you and...

He did this to demonstrate his justice because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time,

Everyone can see He is completely fair in what he is doing, Because of what appeared to happen in the past, as if he had let people 'get away' with sinning, He now to makes it clear sin is being punished



It's completely RIGHT

so as to be just

(justice is done in punishing sin)

and the one who justifies

(by bringing into a right relationship)

those (sinners) who have faith in Jesus

Psalm 85:10

Love and faithfulness
meet together;
righteousness and peace
kiss each other.



There's nothing to boast about.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded.

On what principle? On that of observing the law?

No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from

“observing the law” .



Lessons

- 1, There is no room for pride!
- 2, Justified means being brought into right relationship
- 3, Faith excludes our “contributions” to salvation

Technical Stuff

Note the various ways of translating phrases with ‘law’ in them

- 1, ‘principle’
- 2, ‘observing’ - literally Law of works
- 3, ‘that of’ - literally Law of faith
- 4, ‘observing the law’ – literally “works of the law”

This is a v. specific and misunderstood term.

Works of the Law

3:28

The term “works of the law” has been seriously misunderstood. It found nowhere else apart from the Bible and the writings of the Jewish sect of the Essenes.

(Remember Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:43 are about this sect)

Discovered
in 1953 -59



Published
in 1994

In document 4QMMT of the Dead Sea Scrolls they define ‘**works of the Torah**’ as a number of special deeds that will be counted as righteousness and the sign of being part of the pure community of Israel.

Are they Defining or Adding to the Laws?

Six days you shall labour and do all your work (Ex. 20:9)

eg a Sabbath day's journey (Acts 1:12)

Includes harvesting crops but (Matthew 12: 1-2)?

Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy. (Lev. 19:1)

non-association is added to Moses' teaching (Acts 10:28)

Jesus' conflict with some additions to the Bible's teaching

Further definitions (Matthew 15:1 – 6)

The way it happens?

General law



further definitions + good ideas – why not do it this way?



Traditions- the way we do it



“law”- how it should be done



works for salvation- you have to do it!
(note. Christians can do this too!)

In Romans 3:28 Paul is NOT teaching that the Old Testament Bible is no longer relevant.

He is refuting the idea that performing some special religious actions make you a proper member of God's people

The special badges of membership!
For example the Galatian believers were moving to
Dietary customs (Galatians 2:12)
Observance of Special days & Feasts (4:10)
Circumcision (5:2)



There is only One God

Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

God does the same thing for both Jew and gentile, bringing them into full covenant relationship in one family of faith.

(with and without prior background privileges).

The ideas behind this are in found Deuteronomy 6:4 and Zechariah 14:9



The Role of the Bible

Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

We show the relevance of the Bible's teaching.

See v.21.

- 1, It shows us our sin (3:20)
- 2, Points us to the Saviour
(the Word Incarnate)
- 3, Directs us how to live
as God's children.



Have you got it?

God is calling you into a relationship with Himself by means of your believing and accepting what He has done for you in Jesus, the atoning sacrificial death of His Son. That grace gift cannot be earned by some special acts on your part. However at the same time He calls you to a commitment of faithful obedience to His will as revealed in His word, the Bible.

