

## Romans

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### Lesson 4: Romans 3:21–4:25

When we proclaim the gospel to a sinner, we must give them the bad news before we give them the good news. This is exactly what Paul has done in the first three chapters of Romans. In Romans 1:18–3:20, Paul gave the Romans the truth about the holy wrath of God, the bad news about the universal sin of mankind, and showed them their need for righteousness. However, Paul did not leave them without hope. In 3:21, we read two of the greatest words a sinner could hear, “but now.” Paul tells sinners how God has not left fallen man without the hope of salvation and how God justifies sinners and saves them from His wrath. Let’s dive in and see what Paul has to say about God being both just and the justifier of those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

➤ **Read Romans 3:21–31**

➡ ***The righteousness of God:*** being in a right relationship with God that is provided by God.

1. According to verse 21, who has been telling the Jews about the righteousness of God?
2. In verse 22, how does someone receive the righteousness of God?
3. In verses 22 and 23, why does Paul use the word “all”?
4. In verse 24, how does Paul describe justification for a believer?

➡ ***Propitiation:*** it means appeasement; satisfaction; the wrath of God was satisfied by the death of Christ.

5. In verse 25, what is the “public display” that Paul is referring to?

➡ **Justification:** to declare that a person has been restored to a state of righteousness through faith in the work of Christ and not in one's own work.

6. In verse 26, how is a person justified?

7. According to verses 27–28, can a person boast in their salvation? Why?

**Application:** What makes true, biblical Christianity different from all other religions? How does this knowledge help you witness to “good, religious” people?

8. According to verses 29–30, who does God justify?

**Application:** What was your reaction when you heard that you cannot earn salvation through keeping the Law or being religious?

➤ **Read Romans 4:1–15**

9. In verses 1–3, who does Paul use as an example of justification?

➡ **Imputed righteousness:** God's act of crediting the righteousness of Christ to sinners who trust in Him for salvation.

10. In verses 4–5, how does Paul describe the one who works versus the one who does not work?

**Application:** How would you respond to someone who asks you, “Is faith a work?”

11. According to verses 6–8, what blessings do Christians receive in salvation?

12. In verses 9–12, when was righteousness imputed to Abraham? How was it imputed?

13. According to verses 13–15, did God expect Abraham to fully keep the Law in order for His promise to stand? What does the Law show us?

**Application:** Is it important to know the Old Testament? What would you say to someone who wants to “unhitch” the Old Testament from the New Testament?

➤ **Read Romans 4:16–25**

14. In verse 16, what attribute of God is on display in salvation?

15. In verse 17, what does Paul tell us God does?

16. In verses 18–21, how was Abraham’s faith strengthened and made evident?

17. According to verses 22–24, what hope does the example of Abraham give believers?

18. In verse 25, why was Christ crucified? Why was He raised?

**Application:** Some Christians view God’s law and God’s grace as contradictory. Based on this study, how would you harmonize these two truths?

**Application:** Why do you think Christians do not want to give the law when sharing the gospel? Does this hinder the message or not? Explain.

**Application:** What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.