

The Heart of Romans is the Heart of the Gospel
Romans 3:21–31

What is the Big Picture of Romans?

Introduction (1:1–17)

Faith (1:18–4:25)

Hope (5:1–8:39)

Love (9:1–15:33)

Closing (16:1–27)

What have we seen so far?

1:18–32 – Wrath of God Revealed Against the Sins of the Gentiles

2:1–29 – Wrath of God Revealed Against Sins of the Jews **Judging Righteousness**

3:1–20 – Wrath of God Revealed Against Sins of All Mankind

3:21–31 – Wrath of God Revealed Against the Son → **Saving Righteousness**

Let's Read

1. What is similar
2. What is different
3. What words need defining
4. What do we see about righteousness

1. What words or ideas continue?

- **Righteousness is a key theme**

- Righteousness (n) of God . . . manifested (v. 21)
- Righteousness (n) of God through faith . . . for all who believe (v. 22)
- Justified (v) . . . by grace as a gift (v. 24)
- This was to show righteousness of God (n) . . . because of forbearance (v. 25)
- This was to show righteousness of God . . . at present time (v. 26)
- Just (adj) and justifier (vb / part.) . . . for those who have faith (v. 26)
- Justified (v) by faith . . . apart from works of the law (v. 28)
- God justifies (v) circumcised and uncircumcised by faith

- **The Law is repeated**

- Righteousness of God revealed apart from the Law (v. 21)
- Law and the Prophets (v. 21)

?? What is the difference – covenant vs. revelation

- What kind of law . . . law of works (OC) . . . law of faith (NC) . . .
- Works of the law (v. 28) . . . cf. v. 20/21
- Do we overthrow the Law . . . Law (v. 31) – what is talking about?

2. What words or ideas are new / different?

- Gone is the accusation of Gentile and Jew – judging righteousness
- Replaced is the solution to the problem
- The Law and the Prophets have born witness to Christ and now he is here
- Redemption . . . Propitiation . . . Justification

3. What words need defining

Redemption . . . to purchase with a price	Rooted in Exodus
Propitiation . . . to satisfy the wrath of God	Rooted in Sacrificial System
(Expiation) . . . to wipe away / cover sins	Related in Sacrificial System
Justification . . . to declare someone righteous	Rooted in Court of Law

4. What do we see about righteousness

What do we know about righteousness?

1. The gospel is all about the righteousness of God

Justification and Justified; Righteous and Righteousness all come from same word

1:17 – R. of God is revealed . . . in the gospel (Righteousness as a gift)

1:29 – God’s righteous decree . . . those who break his law deserve to die

2:5 – R. of God is also seen in his judgment of sin; day of judgment will reveal his righteousness

2:13 – Doers of the Law are righteous, BUT no one does the Law

3:5 – God’s judgment on unrighteousness reveals his righteousness, but this does not mean that unrighteousness is agreeable to God

3:10 – None is righteous . . .

3:21, 22, 25, 26 – R. of God manifested apart from Law and Gospel but testified by them; the gift of R. of God comes through faith; the gift of Christ displayed R. of God; R. of God seen now, unlike before (in the OT)

4:3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 22 – R. of God reckoned to the believer (Gen. 15:6); righteousness is found apart from works (Ps. 32); circumcision is a sign post-righteousness; faith was the means receiving God’s righteousness

5:17, 21 – righteousness is as free gift; grace is greater than sin, resulting in righteousness

6:13, 16, 18, 19, 20 – present your members/bodies as instruments of righteousness; those in Christ are slaves to righteousness; righteousness leads to sanctification

8:10 – the Spirit is life because of righteousness [= life results from the declaration “just”]

9:30, 31 – righteousness by works fails; righteousness comes by works

10:3, 4, 5, 6, 10 – those who seek their own righteousness reject (or prove ignorance) of God’s righteousness; righteousness is a matter of the heart

14:17 – righteousness is a characteristic of God’s kingdom

Righteousness is . . .

1. An attribute of God seen in his salvation (1:17) and judgment (3:5)
2. A gift from God (1:17; 5:17)
3. A result of faith (4:13; 9:30; 10:6, 10)
4. A way of life (6:13)

So . . . Romans 3:21–31 is the place where God’s “justifies” (declares righteous) unrighteous people

How should organize our passage?

Trick Question . . . according to the passage itself

3:20–21 – Righteousness of God revealed – introduce how God shows his righteousness in Christ

3:22–26 – Righteousness of God communicated – explain how sinners receive God’s righteous.

3:27–31 – Righteousness of God celebrated –follow through with Paul’s doctrine

The Righteousness of God Revealed (vv. 21–22)

²¹ But now

Eschatological Now

the righteousness . . . has been manifested
of God . . . apart from the law,
although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

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

-- For there is no distinction [between Jew and Gentile]

The Righteousness of God Communicated (vv. 23–26)

²³ FOR all have sinned and fall short

of the glory of God,
²⁴ and are justified [1] Justified . . . by his grace
by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [2] Justified . . . by Christ

[Christ Jesus]
\\
²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation
by his blood, [3] Justified . . . by his sacrifice
to be received by faith.

\\ This was to show God’s righteousness,
because . . . he had passed over former sins
in his divine forbearance. [4] Justified . . . by “patience”

²⁶ \\ It was to show his righteousness
at the present time,
\\ so that he might be just and [5] Justified . . . by faith
the justifier
of the one who has faith in Jesus.

The Righteousness of God Celebrated (vv. 27–30)

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting?

[6] Justified . . . for God’s glory!!

It is excluded.

By what kind of law? . . . [is boasting excluded?]
By a law of works?

[a] God excludes boasting

No, but by the law of faith. [is boasting excluded]

[b] Faith excludes boasting

²⁸ For we hold that one is justified
by faith
apart from works
of the law.

[c] Justification by faith
excludes boasting

²⁹ Or Is God the God of Jews only?
Is he not the God of Gentiles also?

[d] Gentile faith
excludes boasting

Yes, of Gentiles also,

³⁰ \ since God is one—

who will justify the circumcised by faith
and “ “ the uncircumcised through faith.

³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith?

By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

The Righteousness of God Revealed (vv. 21–22)

²¹ But now

Eschatological Now

the righteousness . . . has been manifested
of God

apart from the law,
although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

²²

||
the righteousness . . .
of God

“ “ “

through faith
in Jesus Christ
for all who believe

-- For there is no distinction [between Jew and Gentile]

How has the R of God been manifested?

- **But now . . . eschatological NOW**
- **Apart from the Law . . .**
 - law covenant does not produce righteousness
 - Law = “works of the Law” (v. 20)
- **Through faith in Jesus Christ**
 - There is big discussion about if this means Faith IN Jesus (Obj) or Jesus Faithfulness (Subj)
 - What is the difference . . .

Why is it important that he adds . . . Law and Prophets bear witness to it?

- This is not wholly new
- The Law bore witness to a greater law – Deut 30

What does the last clause (no distinction) mean . . . matter?

- No distinction between Jew and Gentile
- It continues a theme throughout the book

Other things you see . . .

The Righteousness of God Communicated (vv. 23–26)

What does it mean to fall short of God's glory?

- Could mean . . . lost glory of Adam . . . or that we fail to glorify God
- **How can we tell . . . Rom 1:21–23**

Why does this matter?

- God made us for his glory . . . if we don't . . . he has every right to condemn us
- **How do sinners glorify God today? – Romans 4:20**

What do we learn about justification?

- By grace . . . by Christ . . . by his sacrifice . . . by patience . . . by faith
- **Why does it matter that grace precedes faith?**

How are we justified by redemption? What does this mean?

- Exodus – Deuteronomy 7:8 . . .
- Deliverance – Ps 25:22; 32:7
- Isaiah's Salvation – Isa 41:14; 43:1; 51:11

But also a purchased price . . . How was Israel redeemed from Israel?

- Mark 10:45; Eph 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18–19
- **What about the passage in front of us?**
 - Justified freely
 - Propitiation . . . blood

How does propitiation relate to justification?

- **What is the context of propitiation?**
- Expiation (sin) vs Propitiation (God)
- Hilasterion = the mercy seat

What does this propitiation show? And why does that matter?

- God's righteousness – **how does it show?**
- Just and the Justifier – **what does this matter?**

The Righteousness of God Celebrated (vv. 27–30)

Paul again employs questions to make us think about what he is saying . . .

What kind of questions does he ask?

- Boasting?
- Difference between two kinds of laws?
- Who is God?
- Do we overthrow the Law?

What is his main point?

- A right doctrine of salvation . . . brings glory to God . . . and humbles the sinner
- Jews and Gentiles have no right to boast . . . but his emphasis does fall on the Jews
- He even uses the Shema (v. 30) – to argue that God is one of Jew and Gentile

Notice what he does . . .

A Righteousness by faith, not by works (3:27–28)

B Righteousness by faith for Jews and Gentiles (3:29–31)

A' Righteousness by faith, not by works (4:1–8)

B' Righteousness by faith for Jews and Gentiles (4:9–16)

What place does the law have?

1. It does not justify . . . (v. 27)
2. It does instruct . . . (v. 31)

How do you read the Law?

Considering his main point about boasting . . . how do you boast?

How does justification by faith . . . lead you to praise? How does it humble you?

What does a church look like that rightly understands . . . justification by grace?

What does a church look like that doesn't?