

His Righteousness Manifested

(Rom 3:21-24)

- Read section Rom 3:21-31
- This section is divided into 2 parts:
 - ◆ Rom 3:21-24- Description of the way of salvation
 - ◆ Rom 3:25-31- Characteristics of that way
- I. After proving that man cannot save himself in the previous section, Paul now focuses on the fact that God has provided a way
 - A) This way of salvation provided by God was foreshadowed at all through the Law and Prophets
 - B) It was planned from before the world was, but is “now manifested”
 - 1. Col 2:17- Shadow -vs- body, embryo -vs- fullness
 - 2. Rom 1:16-17- The righteousness of God revealed
 - i. What Luther saw
 - 3. Rom 1:18ff- Paul had already shown that God’s wrath had been revealed under old dispensation
- II. Christianity is based on historical events, it is not simply a system of teaching
 - A) “Modern man” wants to rid the bible of those things he finds offensive to his intelligence and person the virgin birth, the miracles, the atonement, the wrath
 - 1. But you cannot change history, you can only hide it, or pervert it, or ignore it
 - 2. The true Christian believes in and relies upon historical facts concerning the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - B) “But now” is the substance of all that Israel looked and hoped for
 - 1. Jer 23:6 & 33:16- “The Lord Our Righteousness”
 - 2. “In that day” in the prophets
 - 3. Jer 31:31-34- “After those days”
 - i. “But now” = something has happened, it has taken place!!!!
 - C) The advent of the Lord Jesus Christ was the turning point of all history
 - 1. Heb 9:26- The end of the world
 - 2. 1 Cor 10:11- The ends of the world
- III. “But now” does not destroy the Law
 - A) Rom 3:31- “Yea, we establish the law”
 - 1. Establish- “to make to stand in proper place, to firmly uphold”
 - B) Ezek 36:25-27- Law written on hearts (promise)
 - 1. Rom 8:1-4- Righteousness of the law fulfilled in us (fulfillment)
 - C) Rom 13:8-10- Love is fulfilling of the law

1. Law actually produces the love of God in the believer, as well as a proper love toward fellow man
 - i. The law first slays “self” in the elect before it does anything else
 - a) It is only after I have a right opinion of self that I am enabled to have a right opinion of others
 - b) The natural man loves self above all others and it is therefore impossible that he can love his neighbor as himself
 - c) Matt 7:12, 22:39, John 13:34, Gal 5:14, James 2:8, 1 John 3:10
- IV. Salvation is much more than just the forgiveness of sin, it is the righteousness of God given unto us
 - A) Zech 3:1-5- Joshua’s change of garment
 - B) Matt 22:1-13- The wedding garment
 - C) Examples throughout the scriptures show us it is more than just His death, it is the application of His righteousness
 1. Adam and Eve clothed in skins of sacrifice
 2. Passover blood applied to house
 3. Laying of hand on animal and partaking of the sacrifice
 - D) 2 Cor 5:21- The great substitutionary exchange
- V. How does His righteousness come to the believer?
 - A) Rom 3:21- Without the law (without the performing of the law’s demands as the Jews taught and all men believe by nature)
 1. Rom 10:1-4- The end of the law for righteousness
 - i. Rom 7:1-5- We must be divorced from self performance before we can bring forth the fruit of God
 2. The dispensational error regarding the law (Rom 3:31 must be read)
 - i. Men teach that once God judged men based on their performance under the law for salvation, but now judges by man’s response to the gospel
 - a) This is completely false, and causes some to even say that evangelism in foreign lands is a bad thing
 - b) God did not bring in “something easier” due to the law’s failure
 - 1) “What Paul is saying is that our means of salvation in our own minds through law-keeping has been completely set aside, and Christ now stands where the law once stood.” MLJ
 - c) Another has rendered perfect obedience to the law for us, and His obedience (righteousness) is put to the account of the child of God through the means of faith
 - ii. The Law of God still stands as the basis of judgment of sin and the sinner
 - a) For the law to be changed or set aside, the nature and righteousness of God would have to change and be set aside

- b) The believer is still judged by the righteousness of the law, but in the fact that Christ has kept it for us
 - 1) The righteous perfection of the law satisfies God's demands, and it is Christ alone that can perform that righteousness which God requires
 - B) Rom 3:22- "By faith" (not "because of faith")
 - 1. By faith in Christ and not in self
 - 2. Faith- involves the whole man
 - i. Knowledge of the truth (hearing)/ seeing the truth
 - ii. Assent to the truth (believing)/ acknowledging it
 - iii. Trust in the truth (relying)/ casting myself upon it
 - 3. True faith never looks to self, yet Satan always tries to cause us to do so
 - i. Not what I was (my former sins cannot prevent me)
 - ii. Not what I am (my remaining corruption cannot prevent me)
 - iii. Not what I hope to be (my lack of coming up to that which I see possible cannot prevent me)
 - a) 2 Tim 1:12- I am fully persuaded in Him
 - 4. Eph 2:8-9- It's not "my faith" that saves me
 - i. Faith is not the cause of my justification, it is only the means which God uses to impart it to me; Christ saves!!!
 - a) Rom 3:27- "Where is boasting then?"
 - ii. Man believes he is saved because he possessed faith of himself and acted on it, the other guy will not
 - a) Eph 2:1-4- The principle of "life" must exist before faith
 - 1) John 3- "Ye MUST be born again"
- VI. To whom does this righteousness come?
 - A) Rom 3:22- To all that believe
 - 1. Paul's emphasis here is on the "all" and not on the "believe" as the next verse proves
 - 2. Paul understood full well the prejudice of the Jewish Christian
 - B) Rom 3:24- Freely by His grace
 - 1. Grace removes all merit whatsoever, including any conceived notions of "our faith"
 - C) Rom 3:23- Not a single person deserves anything but wrath
 - 1. Notice the 2 tenses Paul uses: "all have sinned" (aorist) and "come/fall short" (present)
 - i. I am rejected "In Adam" and "in me"
 - 2. Sin
 - i. To miss the mark
 - ii. Lawlessness

- iii. Unrighteousness
- iv. Trespass (wander out of river banks)
- v. Iniquity
- vi. Transgression of law
- 3. Coming short of glory of God
 - i. Luke 15:14- “to be in want” (same word as come short)
 - a) All mankind lacks this glory, needs it and in fact owes it to God, yet how few are brought to see this like the Prodigal Son
 - 1) Rom 2:7-10- Seeking glory and honor
 - 2) Rom 5:2- Access to grace and glory
 - 3) Rom 8:21- Glorious liberty of children
 - 4) Rom 8:29-30- Glorified already
 - 5) John 17:22- Glory Thou hast given Me I have given them
 - 6) 2 Cor 3:18- Being changed from glory to glory
 - 7) 2 Cor 4:6- Light of knowledge of this glory
 - 8) 2 Cor 4:17- Weight of glory
 - b) In order for fallen man to glorify God and receive of His glory, we must be made free of “self” and brought into perfect love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - 1) To properly see God’s glory and goodness, man must needs be redeemed and brought into a proper relationship with God as His redeemed, and not simply His creation
 - 2) We must “see Him as He is” and that is all grace and love and goodness and perfection
 - c) 2 Cor 3:18- Christians begin to experience this at regeneration
 - 1) As Moses face shown and all Israel knew he had seen God’s glory, so also do we begin to see this in the face of the true believer (look at Gina)