

# **God the Father Vindicated**

(Rom 3:25-26)

- Read Rom 3:21-31
  - Remember this is the first description of the characteristics of salvation in this sub-section
- I. The cross at Calvary was a universal declaration by God, and is at the center of all history
- A) What the cross “declares” (consider the “mysterious” nature of God’s will in O/T)
1. Shows God’s method of making righteousness available to man
  2. Shows it is not works but by faith
  3. Shows God’s wrath fulfilled for believers
  4. Shows the typical meaning of O/T sacrifices and system
  5. Shows God’s providence, and that the cross was not an accident nor a work of evil men
- II. Purpose of the passage, why does Paul include it? What does it mean?
- A) Terms
1. Set forth/declare- “To manifest, to make plain the mystery, to openly show”
    - i. 1 Pet 1:10-12- Mystery of God’s method of salvation under O/T
      - a) Rom 16:25- Mystery kept secret from foundation of world
      - b) 1 Cor 2:7-8- Princes of this world knew not the mystery
      - c) Eph 1:9- Mystery made known
      - d) Col 1:26-27- Mystery hid from ages and generations
    - ii. Declare- Public act, entered into record
      - a) The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most public act ever recorded
      - b) “To declare His righteousness”- This tells us “why” this had to happen and why Paul includes it here (to vindicate God)
        - 1) To prove God just, to clear His holy name from the accusations of men, the vindicate from false statements or thoughts regarding His holiness
          - (a) Man accuse God of breaking His Own commandments all the time, and accuse Him of murder
        - 2) Righteousness- the word used here is used in a different manner than in v.21

- (a) In v.21 it is referring to the “way of righteousness,” or “imputed righteousness,” how God had made righteousness available to man
  - (b) But in v.25 it is referring to God’s Own righteous character
    - (1) Rom 3:26- “Just”- Judicial righteousness, morally righteous, perfect, holy, without fault
    - (2) The cross is the ultimate declaration of God’s justness
- 2. For- “In respect to, pertaining to, regarding”
  - i. The purpose of the declaration is to justify God regarding His past actions relating to sins
- 3. Remission- This is not the normal word used for “remission/forgiveness” (17x), where it means “to deliver, to set free, to set at liberty”
  - i. Paresis- This word is only used one time in scripture
    - a) Anytime we find a word used only once, and especially where the writer has used another word regularly in other places, we need to examine it closely
    - b) Pretermission- Word used in Roman Law to refer to the leaving out of someone in a will, something bestowed on others, but not on this individual
      - 1) “To disregard, to overlook, to pass over intentionally”
      - 2) When this happens in a will, this is a deeper statement about the relationship between the 2 parties
      - 3) This is the word Paul deliberately searched (*lego*) out to use
        - (a) “Regarding the passing over of sins that are past”
      - 4) Remission (forgiveness) -vs- Pretermission (not punishing)
- 4. That are past- People teach here that this means my past sins, or anyone’s past sins
  - i. They then go on to deny eternal security (Roman doctrine)
  - ii. Paul means here “sins formerly committed”
    - a) But when?
      - 1) Compare the entire passage in context, and he is referring to the Old Covenant -vs- the New Covenant
        - (a) Rom 3:26- “At this time”
      - 2) God had passed over sins under the Old Covenant and now must declare how He had done so without marring His righteousness
- 5. Forbearance- “Self-restraint, toleration, holding back”
  - i. Acts 17:29-31- God “winked at”- (to overlook, to not attend to, to not punish”)
    - a) Why?- Acts 17:31- The cross of Christ

- ii. Rom 9:15- “For the redemption of transgressions under the first covenant”
  - a) Hebrews chapter 9 (and whole epistle) is making it clear that the ceremonial sacrifices and system under Moses never had any capacity to forgive sins fully, to eradicate sin
    - 1) They could only provide a temporary fleshly ceremonial cleanness
    - 2) Heb 9:9-10- “Figure for the time then present”.....”until”
      - (a) Heb 9:11- “But Christ being come”.....
  - b) The Old Covenant had no means of dealing with sin permanently, and could only temporarily “cover” (*Kippur*)
    - 1) The sacrifices were “to God” and not “from man”
      - (a) They were as “reminders” to God why and how He was passing over/forbearing their sin, and at the same time were a means of preaching the gospel to the believers
        - (1) This doesn’t mean that O/T saints were not forgiven, they were just the same as N/T saints and by the same sacrifice of Christ, they looked to God to provide a sacrifice (Isa 45:22)
        - (2) The animals blood was there foretelling the blood of Christ
- iii. It was this very thing that left a problem under the Old economy
  - a) God said He hated sin, and that every act of ungodliness or unrighteousness would in no way go unpunished
    - 1) It seemed as if God had gone back on His promise
    - 2) 1 Pet 1:12- Even the angels were confused
    - 3) Unless God can prove how He has done this, He might be accused of going back on His Own word, making Him no longer “just”
  - b) But this and all other questions regarding the nature and perfection of God were answered at Calvary
    - 1) How?
      - (a) Propitiation- God’s wrath satisfied
        - (1) God has poured out His wrath on His Son as the Substitute for His church
      - (b) Calvary is the proof and propitiation is the method

### III. Summary of statements

- A) Rom 3:25- 1<sup>st</sup> reason given
  - 1. For vindication of God’s actions in “time past”
- B) Rom 3:26- 2<sup>nd</sup> reason given
  - 1. For vindication of God’s actions “at this time”

- i. Cross declares God is just in all that He has ever done and in all that He is doing and ever will do
- ii. Cross doesn't merely say "God forgives," it justifies Him in all He has ever done
  - a) How can God justify sinners and still remain God?
    - 1) The sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ
- iii. Cross also validates God faithfulness to His Own word
  - a) Had God said He would punish sin, and then not done so, it would invalidate His entire word and render Him untrustworthy
    - 1) James 1:17- "In Whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning"