

ROMANS From Wretchedness to Righteousness

Study 5

Romans 3:21-26

How God's Righteousness Saves Us

God Justifies Us by Faith Not Works (Romans 3:21)

Verse 21

Rom 3:21

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

1) a) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. According to the video lecture, what are the summary words for the Old Testament law in regards to God's righteousness?

- A. obedience and piety
- B. sacrifice and access**
- C. balance and karma
- D. clean and unclean

b) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. The verse is presenting something that is 'apart' from the law, but 'testified' by the law. How can this be possible?

- A. It is not possible, Paul is confused.
- B. Paul insists that God's new work in Christ breaks new ground in God's plan (it moves beyond the era of the old covenant and its law) but is what God has all along planned to do (the whole OT testifies to it).**

c) Discussion question. Below are the examples of how the Old Testament gave hints on how sin is, find the verse where God says that the sin is removed:

Old Testament examples	Metaphor for Sin	Metaphor for God removing sin	Statement in the passage that declares sin is removed
Zechariah 3	Dirty Clothes	Take away dirty clothes and put on new clean clothes	"See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you." Zechariah 3:4

Isaiah 6	Unclean lips	Burned the mouth with live coal	“See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Isaiah 6:7
Leviticus 16:21-22,34	Real sin- wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins	Confess sins over goat’s head and released into wilderness	“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” Leviticus 16:34

The Basis of Justification is the Cross (Romans 3:22-25)

Verse 22-25

Rom 3:22-25
 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished

2) a) Objective question, choose the answer(s), can be more than one. Based on verses 22-25, which of the following is true:

- A. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all, even those who do not believe.
- B. Gentiles sin more than the Jews, so there is a difference.
- C. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- D. All believers are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
- E. God the Father presented Christ the son as a sacrifice of atonement.
- F. Atonement needs to be received by faith.
- G. God needs to shed blood of the sacrifice to demonstrate his righteousness against sins that were committed.

b) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. When we are both 'forgiven' and made 'righteous' by God, our status is *Simul Justus et Peccator*, this means we are:

- A. Guilty and innocent
- B. Guilty but not innocent
- C. Not guilty but innocent
- D. Not guilty and not innocent

Background Information

Martin Luther's Latin phrase, "Simul Justus et Peccator." means "simultaneously justified and sinner."

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Richard Hooker (1553-1600)

"Let it be counted folly, or frenzy, or fury, whatsoever, it is our comfort, and our wisdom; we care for no knowledge in the world but this, that man hath sinned, and God hath suffered; that God hath made himself the son of man, and that men are made the righteousness of God."

c) Fill in the blanks below. There are 5 pillars of Reformation, google the English translation for the 5 pillars of Reformation or look for the answers in the video lecture:

Latin	<i>sola Scriptura</i>	<i>sola gratia</i>	<i>sola fide</i>	<i>solus Christus</i>	<i>soli Deo gloria</i>
English	Scripture alone	grace alone	faith alone	Christ alone	glory to God alone

d) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. Find the answer in the video lecture. According to the early church fathers and reformers, what are the three facets of faith?

- A. God the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- B. Atonement, Imputation, Righteousness
- C. Knowledge, Assent, Faith
- D. Believe, Grace, Obedience

e) Fill in the blanks below. Verse 23 says that "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God", humans are radically corrupted. Find the answer from the video lecture to fill in the blanks.

i) Radically Corrupted

Sin corrupts the whole person in these ways:	Emotions	Will	Intellect
--	----------	------	-----------

We are extensively evil, but it affects us all in different:	intensity
--	-----------

ii) Spiritually Dead

We are incapable of truly good act which is done for the:	Glory of God
---	--------------

We are unable to turn to:	God
---------------------------	-----

f) i) Fill in the blanks below. There are 3 views on sin in human, fill in the description of the 3 views with answers from the video lecture:

	Pelagianism	Semi-pelagian view (Arminism)	Augustinian view (Reformed)
Level of Deadness	Not dead	Mostly dead	Completely dead
Salvation by	Man alone	God and man together	God alone

ii) Which is the view that shows that a person is 'Spiritually Dead'?

Augustinian view (Reformed)

iii) Objective question, choose the answer(s), can be more than one. What are the reasons why humans are spiritually dead and cannot depend on human efforts to save ourselves?

A. The change required is very radical

B. We need to have a new life by being born again

C. We need to receive a new heart and spirit transplant from a donor and surgeon

Quick Verse Reference

John 3:3

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

g) i) Fill in the blanks below. In verses 24-25, the word ‘redemption’ and ‘propitiation’ (ESV) is used.

1) In Redemption, when **payment** is made, we are **released**.

2) The Greek word is *hilasterion*, is translated as ‘Propitiation’ (NASB,ESV,KJV), ‘Sacrifice of atonement’(NIV), ‘an Expiation’ (RSV), ‘a place where atonement’ (ISV).

ii) What are the differences between pagan propitiation and biblical propitiation according to the video lecture?

Pagan propitiation	Works of sinful man appeasing angry deity
Biblical propitiation	Work of God to absorb His divine anger against sinful men

iii) Why is propitiation important?

- Because god's wrath requires it for justice

- God initiates it he makes the propitiation

- God himself through the trinity through Jesus Christ is the propitiating sacrifice

The Cross upholds God’s Righteousness (Romans 3:25-26)

Verse 25-26

Rom 3:25-26

He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

3) a) Reflection question. In verse 25 God has ‘passed over former sins’ (ESV) or ‘left the sins committed beforehand unpunished’ (NIV). How can God let sin go unpunished if he is just? Refer to Hebrews 10:3-4 and Revelation 14:10-11 to help you answer this.

Christ’s sacrificial death enables God to (1) justify sinful people (2) while he remains just. Those who believed in the future promise of God like Moses and Abraham had their sins unpunished with the annual sacrifice to remind them of their sinful state and their dependence on God’s promise. When Christ came, he fulfilled the promise to atone for the sins. Those who accept get it propitiated, those who do not will get the full punishment at the second coming of Christ/judgement day.

Quick Verse Reference

Hebrews 10:3-4

But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Revelation 14:10-11

he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Case Studies

Case 1

One day, a friend confronts you and asks, "Why is your God so blood-thirsty? Must have blood sacrifice only can be happy?"

4) a) Discussion question. How would you respond to your friend?

Point #1-God's motive is love

God's motive is not to have the blood, it is His love for the world that motivates him(John 3:16).

Point #2-God can create blood, doesn't need yours

My God is all powerful, if He wants blood He can just create it out of thin air and drink it if He wants to, he doesn't need to wait for humans to sacrifice some for Him.

Relevant article: Why is Christianity such a bloody religion?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christianity-bloody.html>

Background information

J.I. Packer

"Note now, three facts about propitiation as Paul describes it: 1) Propitiation is the work of God Himself. In paganism, man propitiates his gods, and religion becomes a form of commercialism and, indeed, of bribery. In Christianity, however, God propitiates His wrath by His own action. "He set forth Jesus Christ," says Paul, "to be a propitiation..." 2) Propitiation was made by the death of Jesus Christ... When Paul tells us that God set forth Jesus to be a propitiation "by his blood." ...he points to the death of Jesus as the atoning event, and explains the atonement in terms of representative substitution — the innocent taking the place of the guilty. 3) Propitiation manifests God's righteousness. So far from calling into question the morality of God's way of dealing with sin, says Paul, the truth of propitiation

establishes it... "to show his righteousness... that he might be just and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus."

John Murray

"The doctrine of the propitiation is precisely this — that God loved the objects of his wrath so much that he gave his own son to the end that he by his blood should make provision for the removal of his wrath."

Case 1.1

Your friend follows up with this question: "If God hates human sacrifice, how could Jesus' sacrifice be the payment for our sins?"

a) Discussion question. How would you respond to your friend?

There are several reasons why the sacrifice of Christ on the cross does not violate the prohibition against human sacrifice. First, Jesus wasn't merely human. If He were, then His sacrifice would have also been a temporary one because one human life couldn't possibly cover the sins of the multitudes who ever existed. Neither could one finite human life atone for sin against an infinite God. The only viable sacrifice must be an infinite one, which means only God Himself could atone for the sins of mankind. Only God Himself, an infinite Being, could pay the penalty owed to Himself. This is why God had to become a Man and dwell among men (John 1:14). No other sacrifice would suffice.

Second, God didn't sacrifice Jesus. Rather, Jesus, as God incarnate, sacrificed Himself. No one forced Him. He laid down His life willingly, as He made clear speaking about His life: "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again" (John 10:18). God the Son sacrificed Himself to God the Father and thereby fulfilled all the requirements of the Law. Unlike the temporary sacrifices, Jesus' once-for-all-time sacrifice was followed by His resurrection. He laid down His life and took it up again, thereby providing eternal life for all who would ever believe in Him and accept His sacrifice for their sins. He did this out of love for the Father and for all those the Father has given Him (John 6:37–40).

Relevant article: If God hates human sacrifice, how could Jesus' sacrifice be the payment for our sins?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/human-sacrifice.html>

