

# 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	
Isaiah 6	Unclean lips	Burned the mouth with live coal	

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	
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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:**

<i>Latin</i>	<i>sola Scriptura</i>	<i>sola gratia</i>	<i>sola fide</i>	<i>solus Christus</i>	<i>soli Deo gloria</i>
English					

**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, Trust
- 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:			
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We are extensively evil, but it affects us all in different:	
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**ii) Spiritually Dead**

We are incapable of truly good act which is done for the:	
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We are unable to turn to:	
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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			
Salvation by			

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

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\_\_\_\_\_ is made, we are\_\_\_\_\_.
- 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	
Biblical propitiation	

### iii) Why is propitiation important?

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 10:34 and Revelation 14:10-11 to help you answer this.**

#### 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?**

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?**

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

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