



# RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

Romans 3:21-26

Sermon Recap:  
No, Not One (Romans 3:9-20)

- a. No One Is Righteous (v10-12)
- b. How Are We Not Righteous? (v13-18)
- c. Why We Cannot Be Righteous? (v19-20)

Don't ask, "Is this my right?"  
But ask, "Am I righteous?"

I tell you, this man (tax collector) went down to his house justified, rather than the other (Pharisee). For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14

How can we who are unrighteous  
(profoundly corrupted by sin), be justified  
(declared righteous) in the sight of God, who  
is holy and righteous?

<sup>21</sup> But now **the righteousness of God** has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it.

<sup>21</sup> But now **God's way of putting people right with himself** has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. (GNT)

Behold, the Lamb of God (神的羔羊) who takes  
away the sin of the world! John 1:29

義

Righteousness

義 = 羊 + 我

Righteousness    Sheep/lamb    I

<sup>22</sup> But now the righteousness of God through faith  
in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned  
and fall short of the glory of God,

<sup>24</sup> [All who believe] are justified and made upright  
and in right standing with God, freely and  
gratuitously by His grace (His unmerited favor and  
mercy), through the redemption which is [provided]  
in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> Whom God put forward [before  
the eyes of all] as a propitiation by His blood [the  
cleansing and life-giving sacrifice of atonement and  
reconciliation, to be received] through faith.

“God, because in His mercy He willed to forgive sinful men, and being truly merciful, willed to forgive them righteously, that is, without in any way condoning their sin, purposed to direct against His own very Self in the person of His Son the full weight of that righteous wrath which they deserved.”

– Professor Charles Cranfield



# PROPITIATION BY HIS BLOOD

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh;  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones He came to save:  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For every sin on Him was laid,  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

# REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;

For I am His and He is mine,  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

# JESUS, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD

- He is THE Gift of righteousness from God.
- He is THE Redeemer who liberated us from the slavery and bondage of our sin.
- He is THE One who averted the wrath of God from us.
- He is THE Answer to the question we asked earlier:

“How can we who are unrighteous (profoundly corrupted by sin), be justified (declared righteous) in the sight of God, who is holy and righteous?”

## RECEIVE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS

But now the righteousness of God has been revealed (In Jesus Christ)... through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe... *are justified by his grace as a gift ...* to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

## Why Did God Do This?

This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:25b-26

“The cross was a demonstration or public revelation as well as an achievement. It not only accomplished the propitiation of God and the redemption of sinners; it also vindicated the justice of God: *He did this to demonstrate his justice ... (v25b, v26b) ...* That is, God left unpunished the sins of former generations, letting the nations go their own way and overlooking their ignorance, not because of any injustice in his part, or with any thought of condoning evil, but in his forbearance, and only because it was his fixed intention in the fullness of time to punish this in the death of his Son.

This was the only way in which he could both himself be just, indeed demonstrate his justice, and simultaneously be the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus ... Through the sin-bearing substitutionary death of his Son, God has propitiated his own wrath in such a way as to redeem and justify us, and at the same time demonstrate his justice. We can only marvel at the wisdom, holiness, love and mercy of God, and fall down before him in humble worship. The cross should be enough to break the hardest heart and melt the iciest.” – Rev John Stott