

God's Righteousness Revealed

Romans 3:21-27

Romans 1:16-17, ESV—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith”

Today we're focusing on the verb “is revealed”

1:18 goes on to say that God's wrath has been revealed, as part of the law, but a **further revelation was needed**

In 3:21-27, Paul adds three other words that are similar to this word “revealed”—“manifested” or “made known,” “put forward” or “presented,” and “showed” or “displayed”

What?

Jesus' redemption and propitiation allows God's forbearance and our justification

Everyone loves a mystery—

The gospel's further revelation solves this OT mystery—

Exodus 34:6-7, ESV—“God [is] merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”

How can He be both merciful and righteous toward sinners, without contradicting His nature?

Vs. 21—this **new revelation of His righteousness apart from the Law** gives us the answer

Vs. 22—Jesus **embodied the righteousness of God**, but His perfect example would have only condemned us further

Vs. 23—Falling short means three things—**not measuring up to God's glorious standard; not glorifying God with our lives, and not participating in our own final glorification**

Vs. 24a—What we need is to be acquitted—**not just pronounced not guilty, but pronounced righteous**

The Big Question—But how, how, how, how can God offer this to us out of His goodness as a free gift, without violating His own righteous standard? (24a)

Vs. 24b, redemption—Jesus died as a **ransom payment paid to the justice of God**, to free us from condemnation

Vs. 25a, propitiation—this means **God's wrath is appeased and His justice is satisfied** by Jesus' blood sacrifice

God provided His own fully-satisfactory sacrifice

Vs. 25b, forbearance—God could **overlook former sins because of the coming propitiating sacrifice** of His own Son

This is why mankind wasn't wiped out millennia ago

Vs. 26, justification—God can now **remain righteous but still pronounce sinners “not guilty”**

This is because He moved His judgment forward in time and poured out the full brunt of His wrath against sin on Jesus, who died in our place

So What?

Vs. 26b—**faith is the requirement** on our side

Vs. 27—for those of you who know you are justified—

You no longer fall short of the glory of God

You can now fulfill God's intention for bringing you into this world—glorifying Him in all you do

In light of these truths you can look forward with spiritual hope to your full glorification in eternity

The final say—Paul

I Corinthians 10:31, ESV—So...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

Now What?

Let these truths bring you to a place of fresh awe
Keep God's glory in mind in everything you do