

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
Romans 3:21-26

INTRODUCTION:

A. All men are sinners, Jew and Gentile

- 1) Romans 3:9-10
- 2) Romans 3:23

B. How can the unrighteous be made righteous?

- 1) A question man cannot answer
- 2) God alone can give the true answer

I. Righteousness is Now Manifested Without Law vs. 21

A. "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested."

- 1) The law never saved vs. 20
- 2) "manifested" = phaneroo = "to make apparent", "to make openly known"
- 3) "But now, not by the law, but by another way, God's righteousness is brought to light."

B. "being witnessed by the law and by the prophets."

- 1) "witnessed" = martureo = "to testify"
- 2) "law" = The first five books
- 3) "prophets" = Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, etc.
- 4) The writers of the Old Testament gave witness to this.

II. God's Righteousness is by Faith vs. 22

A. "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:"

- 1) "I mean a righteousness coming from God"
The real thing! (This is not inferior righteousness)
- 2) "Through faith in Jesus Christ"
- 3) "And it is meant for all who believe"

B. "for there is no difference"

- 1) "difference" = diastole = "a putting or drawing asunder"
"distinction"
- 2) God does not make a distinction!

III. All Men Need God's Righteousness vs. 23

A. "For all have sinned"

- 1) "sinned" = amartano = "to miss the mark", "swerve from"
"err"
- 2) "All alike have sinned" Knox

- B. "and come short of the glory of God"
- 1) "short" = ustereo = "to be last", "to fail of anything", "to come in last" There are no winners.
 - 2) "and all fall short of God's glorious ideal"
Tent. 26 Trans.

IV. How God Makes Man Righteous vs. 24-25

- A. "Being Justified freely by his grace"
- 1) "justified" = dikaios = "to set forth as righteous", "to justify by a judicial act"
 - 2) "freely" = dorean = "as a free gift"
 - 3) "grace" = charis = "kindness", "generous", "friendly willingness", "favor", "grace is all of God's self"
- B. "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!"
- 1) "through" = dia = "through, as proceeding from", "by means of"
 - 2) "redemption" = apolutrosis = "releasing on receipt of a ransom", "the price for a prisoner of war!" The price is Christ Jesus.
- C. "whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation" vs. 25
- 1) "set forth" = proedeto = "to place in public view", "to exhibit in a conspicuous situation", "as goods are exhibited or exposed for sale."
 - 2) John 3:14-15 - "As Moses lifted up....."
 - 3) John 12:32 - "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."
 - 4) God displayed Jesus to the world when He hung on the cross.
 - 5) "propitiation" = ilasterion = "the place where expiation occurs" Ex. 25:17 - "And thou shalt make a propitiatory of gold" (a covering). The Hebrew name was caphoreth, to cover or to conceal. From this place God spoke to the children of Israel. The blood of the bullock was sprinkled on the day of Atonement on this "mercy seat". Here God pronounced Himself reconciled to sinful people.
- D. "through faith in his blood,"
- 1) The propitiation is based on the pathway of faith in Christ's blood.
 - 2) "whom God put forth as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith." RSV
 - 3) Faith is not sufficient. There must be a ground upon which faith rests.
- E. "to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."
- 1) "declare" = endeixis = + eis = "a pointing out"
+ "unto" = "a pointing out with the finger"

- 2) "remission" = paresis = "a letting pass", "overlooking, not punishing", "a passing by of sins for the present"
- 3) "forbearance" = anoche = "a holding back", "delay", hence, "self-restraint"

God, in regard to their past sins, exercised self-restraint. This He did until Christ died on the cross and this pointed out His righteousness. Christ dying for sin!

F. "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." vs. 26

- 1) "declare" = endeixis = "a pointing out"
- 2) "at this time" = "now, at this time"
- 3) "righteousness" = dikaiosune = "the doing or being what is just and right"
- 4) "just" = dikaios = "fulfilling all claims which are right and becoming"
- 5) "justifier" = dikaioo = "to set forth as righteous", "to justify by a judicial act"

God has shown himself to be righteous in forgiving and saving man. Jesus died on the cross to fulfill all righteousness. God can use the death Jesus as a basis on which He can declare men just.