

# **SRMBC Family Bible Study**

## **Romans: A New Lifestyle**

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### **Lesson 5: The Righteousness from God Romans 3:21 – 31**

Like prisoners on death row, people are guilty, condemned and awaiting the execution of God's wrath. They sit silently in the miserable darkness of their cell, all hope extinguished. Then abruptly, the door swings open and darkness becomes light, death becomes life and bondage becomes freedom. "You are pardoned, a voice tells them. That's what God has done for us.

**Group Discussion:** Imagine that you are a judge and someone you love is on trial. Would you be more tempted to compromise your justice or your love? Explain.

- I guess it would depend on the loved one who was on trial – for some I might be tempted to compromise the mercy and really let them have more "Justice".
- If it was somebody I really loved – I would really be tempted to compromise my justice – to cut my loved one some slack.
- Compromising justice or love is not the righteousness – In fact we complain when ever justice or mercy is not equally applied to everyone.

In the second half of chapter 3, Paul describes how righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ upholds both God's justice and his grace.

#### **Read Romans 3:21 – 31.**

1. How is the righteousness from God (3:21 – 24) different from righteousness by law (2:5 – 13)?

#### **Righteousness for the Law**

- When we fail to keep it – there's punishment stored up (ticket in the mail after you've run the red light).
- It is based on our deeds – we need to keep all of it.
- Hearing the Law is not enough – we need to do it and it applies to everyone.

#### **Righteousness From God**

- It is apart from the Law – which was already proclaimed as the plan.
- It is given by faith in Jesus Christ – in what He has done.
- It is free – the price of redemption is already paid by Jesus.
- The wrath against Sin that we deserve – Jesus took for us.
- Our past – no matter what is, covered – a clean slate.

Isaiah 1:18 – God says to us “Come let us reason together - even though your sins are scarlet – they shall be white as snow. In other words, why continue to try work out your sin problem on your own. Come to me and will make them white – I will forgive and cleanse. O that we would take God up on His deal.

2. In verses 24 – 25 Paul uses three important words to describe what Christ has done for us. The word justified (v. 24) is borrowed from the law court. The judge declares that the person on trial has no legal charges against him. Why is our justification remarkable, given the background of Romans 1:18—3:20?

**Justified/Justification:** - 1 to render righteous. 2 to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered. 3 to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous.

This is remarkable because the Word shows us our guilt and it is unmistakable – It is one thing to be declared not guilty for things you know you did, but it is quite another to be declared not guilty for things you know you are guilty of.

3. How should our complete acceptance by God affect the way we view ourselves?

- It should let us know that – no matter what we are loved.
- We should have a confident (not arrogant) view of ourselves.
- We should be accepting of ourselves in Christ.
- We should see ourselves as ambassadors and willing to live up to who God says we are.

4. The word redemption (v. 24) is borrowed from the slave market. It means “to buy someone out of slavery.” From what types of slavery has Christ delivered us?

**Redemption:** 1 a releasing effected by payment of ransom. 1a redemption, deliverance. 1b liberation procured by the payment of a ransom.

- The slavery – of penalty of guilt and shame for the sins we’ve committed.
- The slavery of trying to make ourselves right with God.
- The slavery to the pleasures and power of sin.
- The slavery of living up to other’s expectations.
- The slavery of the fear of death – I know there’s eternal life.

I am redeemed, bought with a price – Jesus paid it all and I owe, we owed Him all.

5. The phrase sacrifice of atonement (v. 25) is borrowed from the Old Testament. Animal sacrifices turned away God's wrath from the sinner. Why does Christ's death turn away God's wrath from us?

**Atonement/Propitiation:** 1. relating to an appeasing or expiating, having placating or expiating force, 2. a means of appeasing or expiating, 3. the blood as the life of the victim, and that God by this sacrifice was appeased and their sins expiated.

- In the phrase "faith in his blood" (v. 25), the word blood refers to Christ's death. It is His blood that atones – takes away God's wrath against sins and sinners.
  - God not only demanded the sacrifice for sin but became the sacrifice through the incarnation.
  - The sacrifice/death of Jesus demonstrates the magnitude of God's justice, love and grace.
  - Jesus took my place and everyone here on the cross – Without Christ's death we would all be lost.
6. Some people find it difficult to understand how God can be perfectly just and gracious at the same time. How do the justice and grace of God meet at the cross (vv. 25 – 26)?
- Because He is perfectly just, God must demand full punishment for our sin.
  - But because He is also perfectly loving, he came to earth in Jesus Christ and took our punishment on himself.
  - At the cross, God's justice and love intersect in perfect harmony.
7. How does boasting about ourselves betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the gospel (vv. 27 – 31)? How should we respond, emotionally and spiritually, to the fact that Jesus experienced God's wrath for us?

**Misunderstanding of the Gospel:**

- There is no "I" in the Gospel, it is all about the Lord Jesus and what He has done for us.
- The way God provides this righteousness is not by man's working or paying for it, but that God gives it to him.
- This gift comes through Jesus Christ - His death upon the cross and the redemption that He wrought for us.

8. At times do you still feel unacceptable to God? Explain. In what ways might you feel or act differently if you more fully grasped what Jesus has done for you?

### **Why We Feel Unacceptable**

- When we fail or sin against God.
- When thoughts or reminders come up about my past.
- When I see my own imperfections and weaknesses.
- When bad things happen to me or those I love – and I don't understand.

### **How We Would Differently**

- Joy and confidence – that all my sins are forgiven.
- Free from Condemnation – I have peace.
- Knowledge that I can do all things through Christ – what I can't He will.
- I would feel loved no matter what is going on in my life.

*Pray that God will enable you to see his resurrection power in the midst of your difficult situation.*

## *Keys for Living*



The one thing that all people have in common is that we all are sinners that are in desperate need of the righteousness that only comes from God.



We are made right with God not by the works we have done – but by the Works of Jesus Christ. That ought to fill our hearts minds and mouths with thanksgiving and praise.



God's righteous Justice and tender mercy are met perfectly and fully at the Cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus's blood upholds God's Law while also demonstrating His great love for us.