

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD!

ROMANS

Rom. 3:21:

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Paul's Apostleship and The Religious Mind

- 1. Paul's revelation on the Righteousness of God is the greatest message in the world!**
- 2. Because of sin, all are unrighteous and incapable of producing their own righteousness by works, even the works of the Law. (Rom. 3:19-20)**
- 3. God's answer to this hopeless predicament is to provide His Own Righteousness on the basis of Grace and Faith. (Rom. 3:21-22)**

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4. The Law and the Prophets can witness to:

- a. God's Character and Being—His eternality, His power, His Righteousness, His Holiness, His Faithfulness, etc.**
- b. The utter ruin and sinfulness of fallen humanity, even that of Israel.**
- c. The impossibility of humanity under sin producing its own righteousness before God, even under the Mosaic Law System.**
- d. The fact that if Israel was to be the Nation God created her to be, God would have to do it based on faith, grace and mercy.**
- e. The fact that justification has always been on the basis of faith.**
- f. The fact that there is no boasting before God.**
- g. The fact that sinners in a Law System always fall under its curses.**
- h. The mercy seat and place of propitiation in the Holy of Holies.**
- i. The Kinsman-Redeemer concept.**
- j. Christ entering into the line of David according to the flesh.**

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- 5. God's answer to this hopeless predicament is to provide His Own Righteousness on the basis of Grace and Faith. (Rom. 3:21-22)**

- 6. This is an insult to the religious mind. Human wisdom says:**
 - a. We need to make ourselves godly and righteous and then God will accept us.**
 - b. Barring that, we need to produce as much righteousness as we can, and then God will make up any shortcoming on our part.**
 - c. Both are ruled out in Rom. 1-3.**

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7. The religious mind hates the BUT NOW Apostleship of Paul.
 - a. Paul says God is declaring right (justifying) wrong sinners, but that would make God unrighteous/unjust, and He would cease to be God—Paul cannot be of God!
 - b. Paul says his apostleship comes through God's casting away of Israel because of her unbelief, but that would mean God is unfaithful, and He would cease to be God—Paul cannot be of God!
 - c. Paul says through his apostleship God is now manifesting His Righteousness and dispensing the Riches of His Goodness and Glory through Israel's fall, sin, unbelief, unfaithfulness, unrighteousness and lies. That would mean God is now operating on the principle of: Let us do evil that good may come! Paul cannot be of God!
 - d. Therefore, Paul's apostleship is disqualified!

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- 8. Paul answers these objections to his apostleship in Rom. 3:21 through Rom. 11.**
 - a. In Rom. 3:21-5:21 he shows how God remains Just while justifying sinners.**
 - b. In Rom. 6-8 he shows why doing evil so good may come or continuing in sin that grace may abound are ruled out.**
 - c. In Rom. 9-11 he explains how God's casting away of Israel does not call into question His faithfulness.**
 - d. ALL OF ROMANS IS DISPENSATIONAL BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON HIS UNIQUE AND DISTINCT APOSTLESHIP.**

Paul's Apostleship and The Righteousness of God

QUESTION	ANSWER
If it doesn't come by our person and work, even by the works of the Law, how is it extended to sinners?	It comes by the Person and Work of Christ on our behalf on the Cross—the FAITH(FULNESS) OF CHRIST. (Rom. 3:22)
To whom is God now extending this righteousness to?	It is big enough to be extended to ALL because all are sinners. (Rom. 3:22-23)
But how do we actually receive it, participate in it?	By faith. It is unto ALL who believe in God and His work on the Cross. (Rom. 3:22)
What happens when we participate in this righteousness by believing in Christ's work on the Cross for us?	God justifies (declares right) sinners freely by His Grace (Rom. 3:24)
How can God do that?	Because it is based on the redemption that Christ Jesus accomplished on the Cross. (Rom. 3:24)
Doesn't this call into question the Righteousness/Justice of God?	No because God set forth the Cross as the place of propitiation/satisfaction where He perfectly and completely dealt with sins/sin/sinners while completely and perfectly meeting all the demands of His infinite holiness (Rom. 3:25)

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10. Therefore, contrary to human thinking, declaring sinners right before Him on the basis of the work of Christ on the Cross for them doesn't call God's Righteousness into question. It DECLARES it! (Rom.

--Paul's BUT NOW apostleship declares God's Righteousness through the Riches of His Forbearance in the remitting of past sins.

--Paul's BUT NOW apostleship declares His Righteousness NOW in that God is Just while justifying sinners who believe.

11. While learning about our justification is important, it is even more important that we realize that God justified us in a way whereby He could remain God!

--otherwise our justification would be worthless.

12. The main point of this passage is not what justification means to us but what it means to God! Paul's Apostleship stands!

--Justification by grace through faith displays God's Righteousness in all its glorious aspects.