

# FAITH AND JUSTIFICATION: THE WAY FOR THE WORLD TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD

(86)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Romans 3:21-5:21](#)

(Continuation from 01/07/18)

## A. Righteousness: The Way to be Right With God, [Romans 3:21-26](#)

[Romans 3:21-26 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> “But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,  
<sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those 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> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;  
<sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;*  
<sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

[\(Romans 3:21-26\)](#) Introduction— Righteousness: the “righteousness of God” is used in three ways in Scripture.

1. Righteousness means God’s character. It means the righteousness, justice, and perfection which God Himself possesses and shows.
2. Righteousness refers to man’s lack of godly character. It means the sinful, depraved, unrighteous, unjust, and imperfect nature and behavior of man.
3. Righteousness means the righteousness, that is, the perfection which God provides for man in Christ Jesus. When a man allows the Lord Jesus Christ to take his sins, he is given the righteousness of God. Christ robes the man in the righteousness of God Himself—by faith ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Philippians 3:9](#)).

[2 Corinthians 5:21 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> “He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

[Philippians 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> “And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.”

1. Righteousness is now revealed (v.21-22).
2. Righteousness is for everyone (v.22-23).
3. Righteousness is only possible through justification (v.24).
4. Righteousness is by an act of God alone: by propitiation (v.25).
5. Righteousness has one purpose: to proclaim God's personal righteousness (v.25-26).

01-21-18

Series: The Book of Romans

## 1. ([Romans 3:21-22](#)) Righteousness— Law: righteousness is now revealed.

[Romans 3:21-22 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>21</sup>“**But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,**  
<sup>22</sup>**even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.”**

God has “**now**” revealed *how* man is to get right with Him. The word “**now**” is a cataclysmic breaking point in the message of Romans. It points to a pivotal point in human history.

It is saying two things.

- ⇒ Before, back then, hundreds and hundreds of years ago, God had patience in that He put up with man’s attempts at self-righteousness through the law. **But now** the period of God’s righteousness has come—the righteousness that is found in God’s very own Son.
- ⇒ Before, back then, man sinned and sinned, learning the impossibility of putting away his own sin. Man’s period of time under law showed him the impossibility of securing righteousness on his own. **But now** the period of God’s righteousness has come—the righteousness that is found in God’s very own Son.

1. God’s righteousness for man is “**without law.**” Righteousness has to be without law, for the law fails **in two critical areas.**

- a. The law does not allow disobedience; it requires obedience. Anyone who disobeys the law becomes a lawbreaker, a transgressor. He is guilty and to be condemned.
- b. The law does not have the power to make a person obedient. It does not have the power to prevent a person from disobeying. It only shows a person’s disobedience and inadequate strength to be obedient. It only reveals a person’s inability to secure any righteousness whatsoever by self-effort. Therefore, if God was to have men living in His presence, He had to provide a righteousness “**without law.**” There had to be a righteousness that had nothing to do with law.

2. God’s righteousness for man was foretold by the Old Testament (prophets and law). This is clearly seen in the next chapter in the lives of Abraham and David ([Romans 4:1](#)). (Cp. [John 5:39, 46](#); [1 Peter 1:10-11](#).)

[Romans 4:1 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>“**What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?”**

[John 5:39 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>39</sup>“**You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.”**

[John 5:46 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>46</sup>“**For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.”**

[1 Peter 1:10-11 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“**As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries,**

01-21-18

Series: The Book of Romans

<sup>11</sup> seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.”

3. God’s righteousness is revealed in Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ came to earth, He came to reveal the perfect righteousness of God. Jesus Christ came to live...

1. the Sinless life
2. the Perfect life
3. the Ideal life
4. the Representative life
5. the Pattern life

Jesus Christ is the perfect embodiment of God’s righteousness. In fact, Jesus Christ is God’s righteousness; or to say it another way, the righteousness of God is Jesus Christ. God’s righteousness is now revealed in and through Jesus Christ Himself.

**Romans 10:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

**Philippians 3:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.”

**1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup>“But by His [God] doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.”