

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

(87)

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

(Continuation from 01/28/18)

## 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).

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Series: The Book of Romans

## 2. (Romans 3:22-23) Righteousness— Sin: righteousness is for everyone.

**Romans 3:22-23 (NASB)**

<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.”

Scripture is clear in its declaration.

1. Righteousness is for all who believe. Note that righteousness is both *given “to”* the believer and *laid “upon”* the believer.

a. Righteousness is given “to” the believer as a *possession*.

**2 Peter 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the divine nature* [righteousness], having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

**John 14:16-17 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

<sup>17</sup>*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

b. Righteousness is laid “upon” the believer as a *covering* or clothing.

**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.”

**Ephesians 4:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup>“And put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

**Colossians 3:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

**Colossians 3:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

2. Righteousness is needed by all. There is no difference and no distinction between men.

### There are two reasons.

a. All men are sinners. The word “sinned” (*hamartanō*) is in the Greek aorist tense; that is, it is a once-for-all happening. It looks back to the historical entrance of sin into the world. This means that all men...

1. inherited the nature of their sinful fathers and mothers.
2. have sinned and are sinners.
3. cannot keep from sinning and will sin.

**Romans 3:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup>“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**Galatians 3:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup>“But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”

**1 John 1:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup>“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

**1 John 5:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup>“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.”

**Genesis 6:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

**1 Kings 8:46 (NASB)**

<sup>46</sup>“When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near.”

**Psalms 53:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.”

**Psalms 14:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.”

**Proverbs 20:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“Who can say, “I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin”?”

**Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who *continually* does good and who never sins.”

**Isaiah 53:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.”

**Isaiah 64:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

**Micah 7:2 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup>“The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright *person* among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net.”

- b. All men “come short of God’s glory.” The tense is present: all men are *coming short*, that is, *continually coming short* of God’s glory. Men are in a state or condition of being short of God’s glory (see below [Deeper Study # 7, Glory—Romans 3:23](#) for discussion).

## DEEPER STUDY # 7

### Romans 3:23 (NASB)

<sup>23</sup>“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**(Romans 3:23) Glory— God, Glory of:** the “glory of God” is God’s standard for man. It means His *moral glory*. It means His excellence, splendor, brilliance, brightness, magnificence, preeminence, dignity, majesty, and grace. It means the absolute perfection of God, the perfection of His person. It is this “glory of God” which demands that man corresponds perfectly with God—if man wishes to be at peace with God and to live in His presence.

**1. Glory is light, perfect light.** It is the very highest degree of light: the perfection of splendor, brightness, brilliance, resplendence. This is seen in many passages.

⇒ John saw how bright the glory of God is when he had the vision of the new Jerusalem. (The New Jerusalem will be the center or capital of world government in the new heavens and earth.)

#### Revelation 21:10-11 (NASB)

<sup>10</sup>“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

<sup>11</sup>having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.”

#### Revelation 21:23 (NASB)

<sup>23</sup>“And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.”

⇒ Jesus experienced the light of God’s glory.

#### Matthew 17:2 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup>“And He [Jesus] was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.”

⇒ Paul experienced the light of God’s glory.

#### Acts 22:6 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup>“But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me.”

#### Acts 22:11 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup>“But since I could not see because of the brightness [glory] of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.”

⇒ Moses experienced the light of God’s glory.

#### Exodus 34:29-30 (NASB)

<sup>29</sup>“It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai

(and the two tablets of the testimony *were* in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

<sup>30</sup> So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.”

**Exodus 34:29-35 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup> “It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony *were* in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

<sup>30</sup> So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers in the congregation returned to him; and Moses spoke to them.

<sup>32</sup> Afterward all the sons of Israel came near, and he commanded them *to do* everything that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai.

<sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

<sup>34</sup> But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded,

<sup>35</sup> the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone. So Moses would replace the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him.”

2. **Glory is purity, perfect purity.** It is the very highest degree of virtue and goodness, of quality and morality. It is the highest excellence of character and the perfection of being.

**1 John 1:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

**Matthew 19:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> “And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

**Matthew 5:48 (NASB)**

<sup>48</sup> “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

**Revelation 15:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.”

**3. Glory is majesty, perfect majesty.** It is the very highest degree of preeminence and magnificence, of dignity and honor, of meriting worship and praise.

**Isaiah 6:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.”

**Isaiah 6:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

**Isaiah 57:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.”

**Psalms 93:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.”

**Psalms 97:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.”

**4. Glory is being, perfect being.** It is the very highest degree of worth, quality and merit, preciousness and value.

**Revelation 4:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup>“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

**Isaiah 43:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.”

**Matthew 19:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>“And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”