

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

(88)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

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

(Continuation from 04/08/18)

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

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

²¹ “But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;
²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
²⁵ 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;*
²⁶ 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 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ “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 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ “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).

3. (Romans 3:24) Righteousness— Justification: righteousness is possible only through justification.

Romans 3:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

Note two significant facts.

1. Justification is a free gift of God. Man, in no way earns it. Man is justified by God’s grace and by God’s grace alone. (See below Deeper Study # 8, Grace—Romans 4:16; note, Deeper Study # 9, Grace — Titus 2:15 for more discussion.)

2. Justification is only through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (*en Christō Iēsou*).

DEEPER STUDY # 8

Romans 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”

(Romans 4:16) Faith— Promise— Grace: the argument for faith. The promise of the inheritance comes through faith. Three facts about faith show this.

1. Faith brings grace. (See below Deeper Study # 9, Grace—Titus 2:15 for more discussion.) Grace (**charis**) means “a gift, a free gift, a gift given without expecting anything in return.” It means “favor, approval, acceptance, goodwill, assistance, help, kindness—all freely given and given without expecting anything in return.”

Picture the scene of a man broken over his sin. He may be a mild sinner or the worst sinner on earth, yet he comes to God. He...

1. falls to his knees.
2. confesses his sin.
3. confesses his inadequacy to save himself.
4. cries for God to have mercy and to forgive his sin.
5. thanks God that He does forgive sin.
6. praises God for answering his prayer and forgiving his sin.

Now, who is the *Savior*, the *Deliverer*, the *Subject* who deserves the praise and the honor and the glory? The answer is obvious: God. God is the center of the picture. This is the very reason salvation and all its promises are by grace through faith. Grace puts God in the center. And when a man makes God the center of his life, casting himself completely upon God and putting all his faith and trust in God, God is bound to hear and answer the man. Why? Because the man is

honoring God completely, and the man who honors God is always acceptable and heard by God.

Now note: when a man *really believes* God, his faith brings the grace of God to him. It causes him to focus upon God, to center his life upon the love of God, to see the presence of God, to secure the fellowship and companionship of God, to know the love, joy, peace, care and concern of God. Simply stated, it causes a man to seek a personal relationship with God, a relationship of trust and dependence. Such is the life of grace, the grace that is given to man by faith. It is faith that honors and praises and glorifies God, and because it does, it brings the grace of God to man.

Psalm 115:1 (NASB)

¹ “Not to us, O LORD, not to us, But to Your name give glory Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth.”

Acts 15:11 (NASB)

¹¹ “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

Romans 3:24 (NASB)

²⁴ “Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Romans 5:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.”

Romans 11:6 (NASB)

⁶ “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”

Ephesians 2:4-10 (NASB)

⁴ “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Titus 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”

2. Faith makes the promise sure. This is seen in the above point. When God is honored and made the center and focus of one's life and trust, that person can rest assured God will accept him and give him the promise of the inheritance. That man will inherit the earth.

Titus 3:7 (NASB)

⁷“So that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

3. Faith assures that the promise is for everyone, that it is available to all. The promise is not given to an exclusive club of people, to an exclusive nation or race or class of people. The promise is given to all, to every person on earth. If the promise was by law, then it would be only for those who have the law and are able to keep the law. What then would happen to the heathen who do not have the law and to the handicapped who are unable to do some of the things the law commands? They could never be saved if the promise came by the law. However, when the promise is given by the grace of God through faith, no man is exempt from the inheritance. Every man can be saved and inherit the promise of eternal life in the new heavens and earth, for every man can believe and trust God (the very thing that even a human father wants of his children).

Luke 21:33 (NASB)

³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

Romans 4:13 (NASB)

¹³“For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NASB)

⁴“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Titus 2:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 6:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God

to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NASB)

⁹“Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His loving-kindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

Psalms 111:7 (NASB)

⁷“The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure.”

DEEPER STUDY # 9

Titus 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”

(Titus 2:15) Preaching— Grace: the grace of God is to be proclaimed. It is to be proclaimed in three ways.

1. We are to *speak forth* the grace of God: preach, teach, and bear witness to it. There is no argument about the grace of God, about the Lord Jesus Christ; God does love the world. He has sent His Son into the world. Therefore, we are to speak forth the message of His grace—of the Lord Jesus Christ—utilizing every method of speech there is, and we are to do it day by day.

Acts 5:20 (NASB)

²⁰“Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.”

Titus 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”

Jeremiah 1:7 (NASB)

⁷“But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak.’”

Jeremiah 1:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, or I will dismay you before them.”

Ezekiel 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.”

Ezekiel 3:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷“Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

¹⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn

him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

¹⁹ "Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself."

2. We are to exhort people in the grace of God. The word *exhort* means to encourage. People are lonely, empty, without purpose, discouraged, distressed, and without hope. They need to hear the glorious message of God's grace, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they need to hear about the wonderful life God gives us now and eternally—all through the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 4:13 (NASB)

¹³ "Until I come, give attention to the *public reading of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching."

2 Timothy 4:2 (NASB)

² "Preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

Titus 1:9 (NASB)

⁹ "Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

Titus 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you."

Hebrews 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Hebrews 10:25 (NASB)

²⁵ "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

3. We are to rebuke people in the grace of God. There is no excuse for men rejecting the grace of God in their sin. God has done too much for us in Christ Jesus His Son. A man is a fool to reject eternal life, the glorious redemption and hope which Christ gives. Men need to be told the truth, rebuked and put under conviction by our rebuking them in the grace of God.

Luke 17:3 (NASB)

³ "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."

Ephesians 5:11 (NASB)

¹¹ "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them."

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Series: The Book of Romans

1 Timothy 5:20 (NASB)

²⁰“Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful *of sinning*.”

2 Timothy 4:2 (NASB)

²“Preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”

Titus 2:5 (NASB)

⁵“*To be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”