

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

(91)

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

(Continuation from 05/13/18)

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).

5. (Romans 3:25-26) Righteousness—Justification: righteousness has one great purpose—to declare God's personal righteousness and justice.

Romans 3:25-26 (NASB)

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.”

God is righteous and just; therefore, He always does what is right, and He always acts justly toward all persons. This is the reason He has provided a perfect righteousness for man. It was the thing to do: the right thing and the just thing. He is righteous by nature; therefore, he provided righteousness for man.

God's righteousness is seen in four glorious facts.

A. That He forgives sin

God's righteousness is seen in that He forgives sin. Christ died for our sins, and God accepts His death as the propitiation or the sacrifice for our sins. **Now note:** God did not betray Christ or man; He did not reject Christ's death. He did not act unjustly and unrighteously. On the contrary, God did what was right. He acted righteously and justly. He accepted the death of Christ as the sacrifice for our sins; therefore, His forgiveness of sins declares that He is righteous.

Matthew 26:28 (NASB)

²⁸ “For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

Hebrews 9:22 (NASB)

²² “And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

Hebrews 9:28 (NASB)

²⁸ “So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.”

B. That He is forbearing

God's righteousness is seen in His forbearance, that is, in His patience and longsuffering with man's sin. **Note a most glorious fact:** God did not punish man for His sin by destroying all flesh from off the earth; God waited until Christ came before condemning sin in the flesh. Remember God is perfect righteousness; therefore, He has to provide a perfect righteousness for man “**in the flesh.**”

- ⇒ There was no man who could embody perfect righteousness.
- ⇒ Only God's Son could and did embody perfect righteousness.

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The fact that God waited until Christ came, that God was forbearing in holding back the punishment of sin, shows that God is righteous. God's righteousness and His justice are declared by His forbearance.

Romans 8:3 (NASB)

³“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.”

Galatians 4:4-6 (NASB)

⁴“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

⁶Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

C. That He is just

God's righteousness is seen in His justice. He accepted the death of Christ as the substitute for our sins; He exacted the punishment for sin upon Christ. He did the right and just thing. His righteousness is declared by His justice.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NASB)

⁴“Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶All 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.”

1 Peter 2:24 (NASB)

²⁴“And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

D. That He is the justifier of believers

God's righteousness is seen in His being the justifier of all who believe. God takes our faith and counts it as righteousness. He takes our faith and judges us acceptable to Him. Now every thinking man knows he is not righteous: not pure, not holy, not sinless. The fact that God accepts the death of Christ as the sacrifice for our sins and justifies us shows a marvelous truth: it shows that God is righteous and just. The fact that God is our Justifier declares His righteousness.

Acts 13:39 (NASB)

³⁹“And through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.”

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Romans 3:28 (NASB)

²⁸“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”

Romans 5:1 (NASB)

¹“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NASB)

¹¹“Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

Galatians 3:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.”