

But Now! the Righteousness of God

I. Gospel — Power to Save — [slide 1]

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it** is the power of God for salvation **to** everyone who believes, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek**. 17 For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from faith **for** faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

GOSPEL the POWER OF God for SALVATION

LOVE at the center of the universe?

II. From Love to Law and back by Grace

(1:18-3:20 A detour to show the need for Christ's intervention)

A. Suppressing Truth —> Refusing Love (Rom 1:18-32)

Rom. 1:18 For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness** and unrighteousness of men,
who **by** their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they **did not honor** him as God or **give thanks** to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

It's all downhill from there —> Idolatry, Perversion, Misery

B. False Securities of Legalism (Rom 2:1- 3:20)

Ro 2:1 Therefore **you have no excuse**, O man, every one of you who **judges**. For in passing judgment on another you **condemn yourself**, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

4 Or do you **presume** (think lightly) on the **riches** of his **kindness** and **forbearance** and **patience**, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Benefits given, **Judgment** withheld, **Duration** of both

How would Paul KNOW? He was the ULTIMATE Miserable
Legalist

MESSAGE: Without Divine Intervention, Human Effort fails

Heritage; Knowledge; Able to Teach but not Keep the covenant;
Had the Signs but no Reality

C. Completing the Case – Exposing Partially False Defenses

Rom. 3:1 Then **what advantage** has the Jew? Or **what is the value** of circumcision? 2 **Much in every way**. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 **What if some were unfaithful?** Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

9 **What then? Are we Jews any better off?** No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written: < ±10 “reality check” indictments>

“None is **righteous**, no, **not one**;

11 no one **understands**;

no one **seeks for God**.

12 **All have turned aside**; together they have **become worthless**; no one **does good**,
not even one.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, **so that every mouth may be stopped**, and **the whole world** may be held **accountable*** to God.

20 For **by works of the law no human being will be justified** in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

*in a court of law; liable to judgment

III. But NOW! The Heart of the Matter – The Gospel Continued “The Righteousness of God” is Manifested

Rom. 3:21 But now the **righteousness of God** has been **manifested apart from the law**, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

22 *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ* for all who believe. For there is **no distinction**: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the *glory of God*, 24 and are **justified** by *his grace* as a gift, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a **propitiation by his blood**, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

A. But Now! – Decisive Shift

1. Good News

BIG CONCEPTS the **righteousness of God**, **justification**, **dispensational shift**, **faith**, **sin**, **redemption**, **grace**, **propitiation**, and the **justice of God**.

Rom. 3:21 **But now** the *righteousness of God* has been *manifested apart from the law*, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the *righteousness of God* through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

2. But now: Discontinuity (yet Continuity) Mosaic v. OT message

Rom 6:22 **But now** that you have been **set free from sin** and have become slaves of God,... [slide 2]

Rom 7:6 **But now** we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Eph 2:13 **But now** in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

3. Righteousness of God Manifested

Not wrath, but righteousness (faithful to his nature and promises)

Rom 10:3 For, being *ignorant of the righteousness of God*, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him *we might become the righteousness of God*. [slide 3]

4. Apart from the Law (Mosaic Law) discontinuity

Temporary Mosaic covenant = regulate lives, reveal sin until the Promise established in Christ.

5. “Law and Prophets” (OT) bear witness continuity

6. *Through faith for all – the glorious gospel!*

22 the righteousness of God **through** faith in Jesus Christ ***for all who believe***. For there is no distinction:

B. Sin, Glory, and Grace

[slide 4]

23 ***for all have sinned*** and fall short of the **glory of God**, 24 and are **justified** by his **grace** as a **gift**, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, ***to be received by faith***. This was ***to show God's righteousness***, because in his **divine forbearance** he had passed over former sins. 26 It was ***to show his righteousness*** at the present time, so that he might be **just** and **the justifier of the one** who has faith in Jesus.

Sin – missing the mark

Fall short – Can never reach the goal

Glory – God's awesome presence

Justified – declared **innocent!**

Grace – as a gift – a divine ability given to work inside us, setting us free to be what we were intended and accomplish his purpose.

Sin is frustration and emptiness

Grace is glorious and fulfillment

Redemption – the Ransom is paid! No longer a slave of sin and death

Propitiation – the Mercy Seat, where God and **forgiven man** meet in **intimate friendship**. The blood of Christ is eternal and infinite in its efficacy. “There is a fountain filled with blood...”

All this is RECEIVED BY FAITH — Trust, reception.

God's righteousness (question of divine forbearance)

Both **JUST** and **JUSTIFIER** of the one who believes.

NO Personal Boasting

Rom. 3:27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. ... by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ... 31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, **we uphold (establish) the law.**

Purpose of the Law was to bring people to faith in Christ.

V. Response

A. Be Still and Know. [slide 5]

Ps 46:10 "Be **still**, and **know** that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

Phil 3:7 But ^awhatever gain I had, ^bI counted as loss **for the sake of Christ.**

[slide 4]

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, **in order that I may gain Christ**

[slide 5]

9 and **be found in him**, not having a **righteousness** of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God **that depends on faith—**

10 **that I may know him** and the **power of his resurrection**, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him** in his death, **11 that by any means possible** I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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