

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: December 16, 2020

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) Job's Question: "How can a mortal be _____ before God?"
- 2) Throughout history people have asked the same question & attempted to answer it. Their answer is called _____!
- 3) The Bible is clear. There is a way for "a mortal to be righteous before God." The answer to Job's question and man's quest is the theme of Paul's epistle to the Romans (see 1:16-17).

A RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD: PROVIDED (3:21-5:21)

What has God done about the world's problem?

Key Word: _____

Introductory Thoughts:

1. Justification: "The act of God whereby He **declares** a believing sinner **righteous** on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the cross." Each part of this definition is important.
 - A. Justification is an _____, not a _____.
 - B. Justification is something _____ does, not _____.
 - C. Justification is a _____ matter. It does not mean God **makes us** righteous, but that He **declares us** righteous. Justification is a forensic (a legal) **declaration of righteousness** because it is God who imputes (or, credits) Christ's righteousness to believers. The word "impute" (or, "credit") appears eleven times in Romans 4.
2. Do not confuse justification & sanctification. Sanctification is the _____ whereby God makes the believer more and more like Christ (see Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:3-11).

Overview: The argument of Romans 3:21-5:21 . . .

1. **3:21-31**—Paul teaches 3 basic truths about justification. First, its **SOURCE**, . . . where it originates. Second, its **BASIS**, . . . on what it rests. Third, its **MEANS**, . . . how it is received. This passage teaches that justification is by grace alone, it's in Christ alone, through faith alone.
2. **4:1-25**—Paul illustrates justification by faith alone in the Old Testament (4:1-25).
3. **5:1-11**—Paul explains the experiential results that justified people enjoy (5:1-11).
4. **5:12-21**—Paul summarizes his argument to this point (1:18-5:11). He contrasts Adam and Christ. Adam stands for man's _____ (1:18-3:20); Christ stands for the believer's _____ (3:21-5:11).

THE _____ OF OUR JUSTIFICATION: God and His Grace.

1. "From _____." Compare "God our Savior" in the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy; Titus).
2. "By his _____." God's _____ / _____ favor.
3. "Justified _____." The Greek adverb is **δωρεάν (dōreán)**. Used 9 times in the NT.
 - Without _____ / _____ (a gift)
 - Without _____ / _____ (undeservedly)

THE _____ OF OUR JUSTIFICATION: Christ and His Cross.

If God justifies freely by His grace, on what basis (ground) does He do it? How is it possible for a righteous God to declare the unrighteous to be righteous without either compromising His righteousness or condoning their unrighteousness? That is our question; God's answer is in the cross. Without the cross the justification of the unjust would be unjustified, immoral, and therefore impossible. The only reason God can "justify the ungodly" (4:5) is that "Christ died for the ungodly" (5:6). Because he shed His blood in a sacrificial death for sinners, God is able justly (righteously) to justify (declare righteous) the unjust. What God accomplished at the cross (that is, thru the death of His Son in our place), Paul explains by three notable expressions in verses 24b-26.

1. He has _____ His people (vs. 24b)
 - A. Redemption means liberation because of a payment made (a ransom paid).
Scripture: **Mark 10:45**; cp. also Rev. 5:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Tit. 2:14
 - B. Redemption may be summarized around three basic ideas:
 - 1) _____ the marketplace or slavery of sin
 - 2) _____ the payment of a price, the blood of Christ
 - 3) _____ a state of freedom, & then they are called to renounce that freedom for slavery to the Lord who redeemed them (Rom. 12:1-2)
2. He has _____ His wrath (vs. 25a)

"God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement." A more lit. translation would be: "God presented him as a propitiation" (NKJV; NASB; ESV; HCSB). NIV textual note: "God presented him as one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away sin" or "as a propitiatory sacrifice."
3. He has _____ His justice (righteousness; vss. 25b-26)
 - A. He did this to vindicate/demonstrate His justice regarding the sins "committed _____" (the O.T. era).
 - B. He did this to vindicate/demonstrate His justice . . . regarding sins "at the _____ time" (the N.T. era).

THE _____ OF OUR JUSTIFICATION: Faith and Faith Alone.

Five times in this paragraph Paul underlines the necessity of faith (vss. 22, 25, 26, 28, and 30).

NOTE: It is not the _____ of faith that saves; but the _____ of faith.

Characteristics of this “righteousness from God” found in the gospel from verses 21-26:

1. It's not _____: “apart from law” (3:21). It can't be _____ (cp. 3:20).
2. It's not _____: “to which the Law and the Prophets testify” (the whole O.T.).
3. It's by faith _____ (*Sola fide*; vs. 28). “Alone” added in Luther's German translation.
4. It's by _____ alone (*Sola Gratia*; cp. Ephesians 2:8, 9).
5. It's in _____ alone (*Solus Christus*; vss. 24b-26)

How the Cross glorifies God (vss. 27-31):

1. The cross _____ God's _____ (vss. 27, 28)
2. The cross reveals God's _____ (vss. 29, 30)
Three universal truths to keep in mind:
 - There is only _____ God.
 - All people are equally _____ by God for their sin (3:9, 19, 22-23).
 - All people are equally _____ God's gracious salvation.
3. The cross upholds God's _____ (vs. 31)
We don't nullify the Law (denigrate it, cancel it) by the teaching of justification by faith, we uphold or establish the law. **The cross “upholds” the Law in three ways:**
 - By paying the penalty of _____ (cp. Matt. 5:17)
 - By fulfilling its purpose of _____ people to faith in Jesus (cp. 3:20; Gal. 3:23-24)
 - By providing believers with the _____ for obeying it (cp. Rom. 8:3-4)

ACTION STEPS:

1. For the believer: _____ the _____ to yourself every day.
“The victorious Christian life is a cross-centered life; and a cross-centered life is made up of cross-centered days. If we forget the cross, we'll slide into one-of-three behaviors:
 - _____: basing our relationship with God on our _____.
 - _____: being more focused on our _____ than on God's _____.
 - _____: basing our view of God on changing _____ & _____.
2. For the believer: _____ (the gospel) to others (see Rom. 1:15-17).
3. For the seeker:
 - The major subject of salvation is _____, not the _____.
 - The main emphasis of salvation is that it's a _____, not a _____.