



The Gift of God's Righteousness:

Justification by Faith

Sunday, March 14/21

Text: Romans 3:21 – 26

'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! – John 1:29

This is the most significant statement made in the history of redemption. It was saying the aspirations and dreams of Israel for thousands of years were embodied in Jesus... the Lamb of God was the fulfillment of everything they hoped for when they poured out blood upon the altar. - Robert Coleman

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. – Romans 3:22 – 24

Sin means not just failing to reach God's 100% pass mark of righteousness, but rather exchanging the worship of God for lesser things (idols) and thereby not reflecting His glory. As image-bearers we were meant to shine His glory so that when someone looked at us, they could say – 'Ah, now I see what God is like.' But we forfeited that privilege and lack that glory. - Christopher Ash

Introduction:

Paul has been building a case that all have sinned, and stand condemned before a just and holy God. But in Chapter 3:21 he returns to the message of the good news of Jesus Christ that he began the letter with, announcing the unique character of the righteousness that comes from God.

The Righteousness of God alone is:

1. Apparent in Jesus Christ, apart from the law (3:21)
2. Applied to those who believe by faith in Jesus Christ (3:22)
3. Accomplished through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ (vs. 24)
4. Able to justify sinners through the blood atonement of Jesus Christ (3:25 - 26)



Study and Discussion Questions – The Gift of God's Righteousness: Justification by Faith

Open It

1. What hero do you remember who always arrived at just the right moment to save the day?
2. How do people understand sin? Do some have a 'yard stick' concept of sin and righteousness?

Explore It

3. What new righteousness has been made known and what is its source? (3:21)
4. How is the righteousness of God different than righteousness found in trying to obey the Law?
5. What heritage do you share with every person who has ever lived? (3:23)
6. What is the cost or price of justification with God? (3:24)
7. What did God do to provide a means of justification and forgiveness for every person? (3:25)
8. How does providing Christ Jesus as a sacrifice demonstrate the justice of God? (3:25-26)

Get It

9. What is the problem with the saying that it is 'God's job to forgive'? What is God's job?
10. Why is it hard for many to believe that they can be forgiven by grace through faith in Christ alone?
11. What makes Christianity good news for you personally?
12. Why would God offer His righteousness free to every person?
13. What does it mean to believe and put your faith in Jesus Christ?

Apply It

14. Could you pray for someone today who is lost and ask God to give you an opportunity to share with them the good news of God's redemptive plan?
15. Is faith something we do for which we can take credit?