

Expositions for Planters

Romans 3:21-26

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished ²⁶ – he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

The Bible presents us with a God who forgives sinners. How can that be right? How can he be right and say I'm right when I'm wrong?

The 'righteousness of God'

4 times in this passage (3:21, 22, 25 & 26)

8 times throughout the letter (1:17, 3:5, 21, 22, 25, 26, 10:3a, 3b)

1. It's an attribute of God's character.
2. It's an activity of God's person.
3. It's an award of God's status.

In this passage we learn about those that testify to God's righteousness, the recipients of God's righteousness, the source of God's righteousness and the proof of God's righteousness. It provides the answers to the following questions

- Where will we find it?
- Who benefits from it?
- How is it possible?
- What does it matter?

1. God's righteousness has been made known (21)

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

2. God's righteousness is given to believers (22-23)

²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3. God's righteousness comes through Christ's sacrifice (24-25)

²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith.

4. God's righteousness is demonstrated on the cross (25-26)

He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished ²⁶ – he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Conclusion