

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
ROMANS

Lesson 4

The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God:
The DEFINITION of Righteousness
(Romans 3:21-31)

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

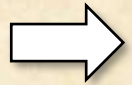
(1:1-17)

(1) The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God

(1:18 to 8:39)

(A) Condemnation: The Need for God's Righteousness

(1:18 to 3:20)



(B) *Justification: The Giving of God's Righteousness*

(3:21 to 5:21)

This is where we are now.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

(1) The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God

(1:18 to 8:39)

(A) Condemnation: The Need for God's Righteousness

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(B) *Justification: The Giving of God's Righteousness*

(3:21 to 5:21)

This section has 4 subdivisions:

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INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
(1) The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
(A) Condemnation: The Need for God's Righteousness	(1:18 to 3:20)
(B) Justification: The <i>Giving</i> of God's Righteousness	(3:21 to 5:21)
1) <i>Description</i> of Righteousness	(3:21-31)

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2) Illustration of Righteousness	(4:1-25)

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3) Benefits of Righteousness	(5:1-11)

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3) Benefits of Righteousness	(5:1-11)
4) Contrast of Righteousness and Condemnation	(5:12-21)

This is how the last section ended:

Romans 3:20

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.



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Justified:

Cleansed and cleared from the guilt and condemnation of sin.



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Romans 3:20

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be **justified** in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Justified:

Cleansed and cleared from the guilt and condemnation of sin.

The law DEFINED sin and EXPOSED sin, but it could not cleanse man from sin.



This is how the last section ended:

Romans 3:20

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Paul will now prove that man can only be justified by faith in Jesus Christ.

This section begins with two very important words:



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:21

²¹ But now...



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:21

²¹ But now...

The world had become a different place from the one Paul was born into.

The resurrection of Christ had changed things!



- Jesus fulfilled the law.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets:
I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. (Matthew 5:17)

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- He fulfilled the law by offering himself as the answer to the law's demands.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,
being made a curse for us ... (Galatians 3:13a)

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being made a curse for us ... (Galatians 3:13a)

- He paid our debt to sin by becoming sin for us and then dying on the cross.

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin;
that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

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For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin;
that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- Then, by his resurrection, he conquered death itself.

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more;
death hath no more dominion over him. (Romans 6:9)

Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:21

²¹ But now the righteousness of God **without the law** is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

All of man's attempts to make himself righteous by keeping the works of the law had been in vain ...



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:21

²¹ But now the **righteousness** of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Righteousness:

The sinless perfection and holiness of God's own nature. This is man as he was created to be.



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:21

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by **the law and the prophets**;

The law and the prophets is an expression for the Old Testament.

Luke 16:16a

The law and the prophets were until John ...



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:21

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by **the law and the prophets**;

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming righteousness:

Isaiah 61:11

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause **righteousness** and praise to spring forth before all the nations.



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:22-23

²² Even the righteousness of God
which is **by faith of Jesus Christ**
unto all and upon all them that believe:
for there is no difference:

How do we get this righteousness?
Not by the works of the law, but by
faith in Jesus Christ.



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:22-23

- ²² Even the righteousness of God
which is by faith of Jesus Christ
unto all and upon all them that believe:
for there is no difference:
- ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the
glory of God;

And in what way is there no
difference between the Jew and
Gentile?



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:24-26

- ²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- ²⁶ To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

The gift of righteousness becomes possible after sinful man is *justified* – cleansed from the stain of sin.



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But how is this justification accomplished?



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:24-26

- ²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus:
- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the **remission** of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
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Here are three more words we need to understand:



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

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Redemption: the payment for a debt or ransom.

Ephesians 1:7

In whom we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;



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Propitiation: an act that satisfies God's wrath so he can be *propitious* (gracious and merciful) to man, and there can be reconciliation.

1 John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.



Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

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- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the **remission** of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- ²⁶ To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Remission: the giving up of the punishment due to a crime.

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no **remission**.



Putting all this together...

Romans 3:24-25

- ²⁴ Being JUSTIFIED [cleared of our sins] freely by his grace through the REDEMPTION [the blood payment] that is in Christ Jesus:
- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a PROPITIATION [one who would turn away God's wrath, making it possible for us to be reconciled with him] through faith in his blood, to declare his RIGHTEOUSNESS [his perfect holiness in character and deed] for the REMISSION [forgiving and forgetting] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

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- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a PROPITIATION [one who would turn away God's wrath, making it possible for him to forgive our sins, and for us to live in peace with him] through faith in his blood, to declare his RIGHTEOUSNESS [his perfect holiness in character and deed] for the REMISSION [forgiving and forgetting] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

All because of the grace and forbearance of God!

The Lord's Garage

Think of it as a trip to the Lord's repair shop.



The Lord's Garage



We come to the Lord's garage like broken-down cars in great need of repair.

The Lord's Garage



We are REDEEMED –
“bought with a
price.” All our fines
and violations are
paid on our behalf.

The Lord's Garage



Psalm 107:2

Let the redeemed
of the LORD say so,
whom he hath
redeemed from the
hand of the enemy;

The Lord's Garage



We are JUSTIFIED.
Our sins are washed
away and we are
made like new again.

The Lord's Garage



1 Corinthians 6:11b
...but ye are washed,
but ye are sanctified,
but ye are **justified** in
the name of the Lord
Jesus, and by the
Spirit of our God.

The Lord's Garage



Being cleansed and cleared from sin, we are now made RIGHTEOUS – just as God designed us to be.

The Lord's Garage



2 Corinthians 5:21
For he hath made him
to be sin for us, who
knew no sin; that we
might be made the
righteousness of God
in him.

The Lord's Garage



Redeemed

The Lord's Garage



Justified

The Lord's Garage



Righteous

Let's read it again:

Romans 3:24-26

²⁴ Being **justified** freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood,

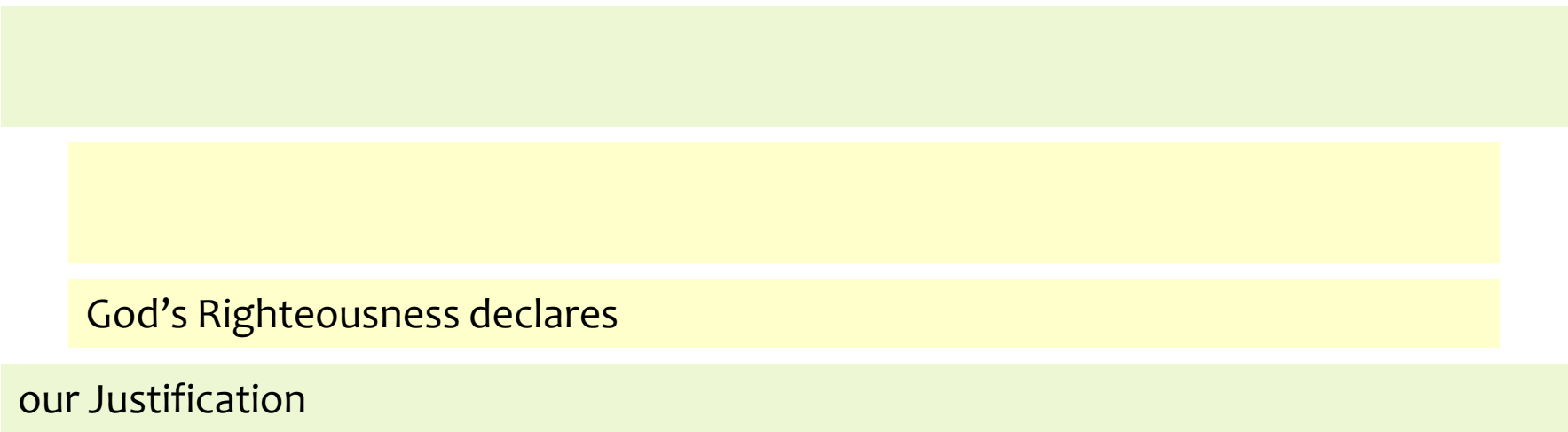
to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past,
through the forbearance of God;

²⁶ **To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness:**

that he might be **just, and the justifier** of him which believeth in Jesus.

Our Justification

declares God's Righteousness.



God's Righteousness declares

our Justification

Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)

Romans 3:24-26

- ²⁴ **Being justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare **his righteousness** for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- ²⁶ To declare, *I say*, at this time **his righteousness:** that he might be **just, and the justifier** of him which believeth in Jesus.

It is **double** because the atoning blood of Christ has twice the redeeming power that anyone will ever need!

Isaiah 40:2:

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned:
for she hath received of the LORD'S hand **double** for all her sins.



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➡ 1) <i>Description</i> of Righteousness	(3:21-31)

This first part of Paul's study of man's justification ends with 3 sets of questions, answers, and conclusions.

Question

Question 1

²⁷ Where *is* boasting then?

By what law? of works?

Answer

It is excluded.

Nay: but by the law of faith.

Conclusion

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Question

Question 1

²⁷ Where *is* boasting then?
By what law? of works?

Answer

It is excluded.
Nay: but by the law of faith.

Conclusion

²⁸ Therefore we conclude
that a man is justified by
faith without the deeds
of the law.

Paul's epistle to the Galatians
echoes this conclusion.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law,
but by the faith of Jesus Christ,
even we have believed in Jesus Christ,
that we might be justified by the faith of Christ,
and not by the works of the law:
for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Question

Question 2

²⁹ *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles?

Answer

Yes, of the Gentiles also:

Conclusion

³⁰ Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Question

Question 2

²⁹ *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles?

Answer

Yes, of the Gentiles also:

Conclusion

³⁰ Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

There is one God and one Savior for all.

Question

Question 3

³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith?

Answer

God forbid:

Conclusion

yea, we establish the law.

Question

Answer

Conclusion

Question 3

³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith?

God forbid:

yea, we establish the law.

Through faith, we establish the law.

And this brings us right back to where we started this lesson:

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:
for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Righteousness is not a reward for good works.
Righteousness is a gift to those who believe.

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Righteousness is a gift to those who believe.

Paul will prove this in his study of Abraham – the subject of our next lesson.

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(B) Justification: The *Giving* of God's Righteousness

(3:21 to 5:21)

1) **Description** of Righteousness (3:21-31)

2) **Illustration** of Righteousness (4:1-25)



UP NEXT

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. What are the first two words of Romans 3:21, and why are they so important?
2. According to 3:23, why is there no difference between the Jew and Gentile?

In Questions 3 to 7, match the word to the definition:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 3. Righteousness | a) The payment for sins through the sacrifice of Christ. |
| 4. Justification | b) Forgiveness and pardon from deserved punishment. |
| 5. Redemption | c) An act that satisfies God's wrath. |
| 6. Propitiation | d) The state of holiness that is how man was meant to be. |
| 7. Remission | e) The act of grace that cleanses and clears man of sin. |
8. Why does Isaiah 40:2 say God's people have received double for all her sins?
 9. What is the question and answer of 3:27?
 10. What is the question and answer of 3:29:

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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