

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

Bible Class Instructor: Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member

ROMANS 21 PART 1: ALL NEED GRACE

READ: ROM 3:9-31

THE VERDICT IS IN...

No matter who you are... what your background... ethnic heritage... gender... age... social status... God has issued ONE verdict on your position in relation to His Holiness and Justice”

You ARE Guilty!

AND there is NO Appeal to another Judge or Court!

In ROMANS 3:9-20 God unapologetically presents the summary of His judgment... and He doesn't leave any room for

ROM 3:9-20 *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:*

Paul quotes from “6” OLD TESTAMENT passages to establish that this is NOT new... it Has been true just not “excitedly” received by the Jews... let alone the Gentiles

“None is righteous, no, not one,

¹¹ *no one understands,*

no one seeks for God.

PSALM 14:1-3 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”*

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds,

there is none who does good.

² *The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,*

to see if there are any who understand,

who seek after God.

This carries an “implied” Negative Answer: **“NO,**

there are not...”

¹² *All have turned aside; together they have become worthless,* [“corrupted / spoiled”]

no one does good, not even one.”

³ *They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt,*

there is none who does good, not even one.

13 *“Their throat is an open grave,*

*PSALM 5:9 For there is no truth in their mouth,
their **inmost self is destruction,***

*their **throat is an open grave,** - the evil of their innermost being is revealed in
their words as they speak*

*they **use** their tongues to deceive.”*

*“The **venom of asps is under their lips.**”*

*PSALM 140:3 They **make** their tongue sharp as a serpent's,*

*and **under their lips is the venom of asps.** – They purposefully USE their words
to bring about harm to others – “like a serpent” this is NOT accidental*

14 *“Their **mouth is full of curses and bitterness.**”*

*PSALM 10:7 His **mouth is filled with cursing** and deceit and oppression,
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity. – **More on the mouth:***

*As **JAMES 4:8** says, “...but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a
restless evil, full of deadly poison.”*

ROMANS 21 PART 2: ALL NEED GRACE

15 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood,*

16 *in their paths are ruin and misery,*

17 *and the way of peace they have not known.”*

*ISA 59:7-8 Their feet run to evil,
and they are swift to shed innocent blood,
their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,
desolation and destruction are in their highways.*

*⁸ The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths,
they have made their roads crooked,
no one who treads on them knows peace.*

18 *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

*PSALM 36:1 Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in his heart, there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

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.*

➤ *None justified –*

➤ *Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin... - ONLY through the Law is one able to discern “why” they are IN sin... and NEED Salvation*

RIGHTEOUSNESS APART FROM THE LAW:

As Paul developed his position, that righteousness cannot be a result of anything WE can do, he could also hear his “invisible opponents” responding, *“so then what you are saying is that obtaining righteousness is impossible! That leaves us all pretty hopeless!”*

But Paul is not “cornered” – this is exactly what he was wanting. He had reached a place where the *“way to a right-standing with God”* could be revealed.

ROM 3:21-26

➤ *But now [a] righteousness of God has been manifested – Emphatic proclamation... A class of “righteousness” has been “made evident / brought out into the open / made apparent...” ALL are the result of some activity*

- *APART FROM the law – THIS “class of righteousness” is Apart from / different from / distinct in its class – Is this something “new – never known before”?*
- *although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— NOT NEW... the Law and Prophets have borne witness to it... said something about it... IT IS NOT NEW... It was just “Hidden / a Mystery”*
- EPH 2:14 – 3:12 *THE “MYSTERY OF CHRIST”*

➤ ²² *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ – FAITH... This is how this class of righteousness is obtained... [ROM 1:17]*

- *for all who believe.* – Individual FAITH is absolutely essential
- *For there is no distinction:* - Jew / Gentile / Barbarian / Wise / Bond / Free / Male / Female...

➤ ²³ *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, - ANY hope of righteousness outside of “faith in Jesus Christ” is nullified*

- ²⁴ *and are justified by his grace as a gift*, - THIS Righteousness is NOT temporal / external / a façade... THIS is a **“gift of grace”** – a multiplication of the free-ness of this righteousness...
 - *through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*, - the **“payment made to permanently set-us-free” [apolutrosis]** has been made...
 - ²⁵ *whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood*, - **[Hilasterion]** The **“satisfying of the wrath”** of God was met by the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ...
 - *to be received by faith.* – This **“redemption through propitiation”** [THE MERCY SEAT] can ONLY be realized by “faith” ...
- *This was to show God's righteousness*, - THIS is not **“our righteousness”** but GOD’S ALONE...
 - *because in his divine forbearance* – God **“kept-on passing over the sins of mankind” moving them ahead to the Cross where they would be ‘propitiated’ by the Substitute / Redeemer / Messiah**
 - *He had passed over former sins.* – ALL was **“Atoned in the heart of God”** until the proper time...
- ²⁶ *It was to show his righteousness at the present time*, - THIS was the **“time”** – His righteousness was NOT shown in the Lambs / bullocks / goats that had been offered... **THAT was “forbearance”**
- *so that he might be just* – ACT JUSTLY – Righteously
- *and the justifier* – HE and HE ALONE would Justify those...
- *of the one who has faith in Jesus.* – Who had /have “faith”
 - In what HE WOULD DO... -
 - In what HE HAS DONE... -