

“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 22 PART 1: ESTABLISHING GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS

READ: **ROM 3:21-31**

We addressed the first portion of this section of **ROMANS 3** in our last Session. The emphasis was that no matter **WHO** you are, **WHAT** your background, **WHERE** you are from... **“ALL NEED GRACE!”**

AND God knew that... That is why the **GOSPEL OF GOD** IS the **GOSPEL OF GRACE** which is to be received **BY FAITH...** and is **NOT** attained through human good, acts of merit, or adherence to **THE LAW**. In the teachings of **MARTIN LUTHER** this was summed-up by 3 great phrases:

Sola Gratia... **Sola Fide...** **Sola Christo...** [**Grace Alone...** **Faith Alone...** **Christ Alone**]

ROM 3:21-25 *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who BELIEVE. For there is no distinction:²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Paul’s hope, before he became a Christian, was that, **by perseverance in observing the LAW OF GOD, he might at length be pronounced righteous by God when he stood before his JUDGMENT-SEAT.**

But in **THIS** way of **righteousness apart from The Law**, the **procedure is reversed:** **God pronounces believers righteous at the beginning of their course, not at the end of it.** If he pronounces them righteous at the beginning of their course, **it cannot be on the basis of works which they have not yet done.** Such justification is... **‘an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight.’**

- 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 radical!**
Justified... - made to be in a place of “right-standing” with God – Nothing separating...

ROMANS 22 PART 2: ESTABLISHING GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS

By HIS Grace... - **“Charis”** – God’s power made available to overwhelm our “weakness” – sin
As a Gift... - **“Dorean”** – **a gift made freely...** no strings attached... no basis except generosity

- **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, - the “**payment made to permanently set-us-free**” has been made...

“Apolutrosis...” - Sent away in “**perpetual freedom...**” – a captive / prisoner / victim – held by opponent set-free and sent away in freedom to NOT be held again...

- ²⁵ **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood**, - The “**satisfying of the wrath**” of God was met by the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ...
 - **Put-forward...** - **“Protithemi”** - **Presented Openly / Publicly** – Whereas the “Ark of the Covenant” and **“Mercy seat”** were concealed in the Holiest Place “hidden from view / access” **THIS “offering of the Blood of the Redeemer”** was Openly Displayed...
 - **Propitiation** – **“Hilasterion”** – NOT Mercy...

1 JOHN 2:2 He is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 JOHN 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.

LUKE 18:13-14 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, **be merciful** to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- **The Mercy Seat** – When the sacrificial blood is sprinkled on this cover, it ceases to be a place of judgment and becomes a place of mercy. The blood comes between the violated law and the violators, the people.
- The blood of Jesus satisfies the just requirements of God's holy law which mankind broke, pays the penalty for man, and thus removes that which had separated between a holy God and sinful man: sin, its guilt and penalty.
- That which provides that satisfaction for the broken law. Our blessed Lord is both the Mercy Seat and the Sacrifice which transforms the former from a judgment seat to one where mercy is offered a sinner on the basis of justice satisfied.

HEB 9:5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing **the mercy seat**.

3:25B to be received by faith. – This **“redemption through propitiation”** [THE MERCY SEAT] can ONLY be realized by “faith” ...

- God set forth the Lord Jesus as the One who would be **the satisfying sacrifice for the sins of all**, BUT Paul is careful to explain that the benefits of that sacrifice are only available to one when he places his faith in the blood which was shed.
- Paul is employing the language of the **Law-Court** (**‘justified’/ pardon**), **The Slave-Market** (**‘redemption’**) and **The Altar** (**‘expiation’, ‘atoning sacrifice’**) in the attempt to do justice to the fullness of God’s gracious act in Christ.
- **Pardon, liberation, atonement**—all are made available to us **by his free initiative** and may be **appropriated by faith**.