

**"THE HEART OF IT ALL:
The Heart of The Gospel and The Heart of Romans"**
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Romans 3:21-26

I. THE GREAT NEWS!!

Don't forget the context (1:18 – 3:20). Paul has just painted the hopeless picture of a fallen humanity that has no way of meriting favor before a holy God... The darkness is bleak, but the dawn is about to shine! The next six verses represent the heart of the Gospel message, and the heart of Paul's letter to the Romans.

A. There Is A ' _____ ' Pathway to Freedom! (v. 21)

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

1. **"Righteousness from God"**: the gift of ' _____ ' - before God, from God!
2. **"Apart from law"**: this 'right standing' is completely _____ to our deeds!
3. **"To which the Law and the Prophets testify"**: this is _____ by the Scriptures!

B. The _____ Examined (vv. 22 – 25a)

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood."

1. This 'right standing' is _____; it is _____. (v. 22a)
a. *"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ..."*
2. It is open to _____ and _____. (vv. 22b - 23a)
a. *"...to all who believe. There is no difference..."*
3. _____ human being _____ the wrath of God. (v. 23)
a. *"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."*

The Glory Lost, The Glory Restored...

The **"glory of God"** refers to the _____ of God. Think of the difference between the ability of a rough surface to reflect the sunlight vs. a perfectly smooth surface. Jewish thought was that, prior to the fall of mankind, we reflected God's glory. With the entrance of sin, the glory departed from us. However, the thought was that it would be restored at the end of time. Paul seems to hint that there is a gradual restoration that is taking place now! (Romans 5:12; 8:18; 8:30; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

4. Every human being is offered a _____. (vv. 24–25a)

a. **“Justified”** (dikaioo): _____ or _____ righteous (as opposed to being made righteous by experience.)

b. **“Redemption”** (apolutrosis): deliverance or release effected by _____.

c. **“Sacrifice of atonement”** (hilasterion): a _____.

Amazing Grace...

Essentially, the message of the Gospel is this: The sins of humanity merited the full weight of God's righteous wrath. However, God determined to direct against Himself (in the person of His Son), the full weight of His righteous wrath that these sins deserved. He then offers this pardon as a free gift to all.

C. The _____ Examined (vv. 25b – 26)

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

1. The Gospel demonstrates the _____ of God. (vv. 25b -26a)

a. Until the cross, sin was seemingly going _____.

b. Through the cross, God's justice was _____ – sin was _____.

c. God was able to be _____ for centuries, because He had already determined the method, time, and place to _____ it.

2. The Gospel demonstrates the _____ of God. (v. 26b)

a. Through the Gospel events (death and resurrection), God is able to offer a fully-funded, free gift of _____ righteousness to anyone who believes.