

#9 How Jesus Died for God... and for you!
Romans 3:21-31 (NIV)

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Romans 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶he 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.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. ²⁹ Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

The Storyline of the Bible...

Creation: All the good that God originally intended for His creation

Fall: How things got messed up and what's wrong with humanity

Redemption: How God acted in space and time to reverse the whole trajectory of things and win back a people for Himself

Restoration: How it's all going to play out in the end, with God making all things new and reclaiming His original intent for all of His creation.

- The theme of Romans 3:21-31: **RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
- Righteousness: A validating performance record that opens doors, like a **RESUME** or a **TRANSCRIPT.**

What/who has been your righteousness? Your justification?

RIGHTEOUSNESS...

1. Comes from **GOD** – “a righteousness from God”
2. Apart from our Moral **PERFORMANCE** – “apart from law”
3. Predicted in the **OLD TESTAMENT** – “to which the Law and the Prophets testify”
4. Obtained Only by **FAITH** – “comes through faith in Jesus Christ”
5. Offered without **DISCRIMINATION** – “to all who believe. There is no difference”
6. Given Freely as a **GIFT OF GRACE** – “are justified freely by His grace”
7. Requiring a **GREAT PRICE** – “through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus”
8. Vindicating God’s **REPUTATION** – “He did this to demonstrate His justice...”

MS Challenge Questions:

- In Old Testament times, why did God sometimes look bad?

- Did Jesus die for God or for us? _____
- What does ‘propitiation’ mean? _____

9. Giving Christians a New Ground for **BOASTING** – “Where, then, is boasting?”
Jesus died to demonstrate God’s **JUSTICE** ... Jesus died to showcase God’s **GRACE**... Jesus died to put on display God’s **CONSISTENCY**... Jesus died to validate God’s **LAW**

I’m marking TODAY as the day I’m making sure of my standing with God. I’m letting go of my own “righteousness” and transferring my full trust to Jesus and His sacrifice for me in order to be forgiven of my sins and receive HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS!