

GOD'S REMEDY FOR MAN'S SIN ROMANS 3:21-31

Romans 1:18-3:20 declares and describes man's universal problem of sin. Man is helplessly and hopelessly lost and the wrath of God is revealed against man's sin (1:18). This section of Romans ends with the sad conclusion that all the world has become guilty before God (3:20).

Against this backdrop of man's sinfulness we are introduced to the great doctrine of justification by faith. The phrase "But now" in 3:21 marks the transition from man's guilt and hopelessness to how he can become righteous or just in the sight of God. In other words, this passage tells us how man can be relieved of his burden of sin, guilt, and shame.

I. THE DECLARATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. 3:21-23.

* "God's righteousness" as used here refers to the righteousness that God provides for man. See Rom. 1:17; 3:21, 22.*

A. This righteousness is apart from the law. 3:21.

B. This righteousness is witnessed by the Law and Prophets. 3:21. Cp. Gen. 15:6; Ps. 32:1-2; Hab. 2:4.

C. This righteousness is through faith in Christ. 3:22.

D. This righteousness is offered to all. 3:22b-23.

* This righteousness is offered to all for all stand in need of it.*

II. THE PROVISION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. 3:24-26.

A. This righteousness is provided through grace. 3:24. cp. Titus 2:11.

* Grace is the term used to describe God's free and unmerited favor.*

B. This righteousness is provided through Christ.

1. Redemption – This term means to deliver from bondage through the payment of a price. 3:24. See 1 Pet. 1:18.

2. Propitiation – This term denotes that which appeases the wrath of an offended party. Through the propitiation that Jesus made on the cross our loving God can forgive sins and also be just. 3:25,26.

* Man has two major problems that are addressed in the death of Christ. First, he is a sinner in bondage to sin. He finds deliverance through redemption. Second, he is a sinner who has offended the justice and holiness of God. This need is addressed through the propitiation or satisfaction that Jesus offered at Calvary.*

III. THE RESULTS OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. 3:27-31.

- A. This righteousness excludes human boasting. 3:27-28. Eph. 2:8-9.
- B. This righteousness relates man to one God. 3:29-30.
 - 1. He is God of Jew and Gentile.
 - 2. He is God of all the earth.
 - * Pagans in that day often offered sacrifices to many gods such as the god of the sun or the god of the sea. *
- C. This righteousness fulfills the purpose of the law. 3:31. Rom. 3:19-20.

There is full and free forgiveness offered to all through Jesus Christ. This forgiveness is not cheap. It dearly cost God to provide it for man. However, it is free to all who will believe and receive it. Are you among those who have trusted Christ for forgiveness? If so, rejoice in the fact that you stand before God without guilt. You are righteous before Him.

If you haven't received the forgiveness that God has provided in Christ, you stand before God guilty of all your sin. God offers forgiveness through faith in Christ. Why don't you receive that forgiveness today?