

God's Righteousness on Display

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: God's righteousness is put on full display at the cross where Jesus Christ died to justify all who believe in him.

Job asked a deep spiritual question in Job 9:2: "How can a man be in the right before God?" (Job 9:2b ESV). That's a question only God can answer. Yet through the apostle Paul, he answers that question in this passage. It's good to wrestle with those kinds of questions because it means we're starting to put the pieces of our Christian lives together in some kind of meaningful way. But there's an added benefit: we see God's Righteousness – his nature and ways – put on profound display. Paul teaches in verse 21 that the righteousness of God is manifested. He repeats the phrase, "to show God's righteousness" in verses 25 & 26. This is a righteousness that comes from God; it's not in us naturally. It must be given to us by God. We call this justification.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 3:21-29** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "**God's Righteousness on Display.**"

DIG IN

1. The Gift of Justification. (Romans 3:21-24a)

What are the implications for us if we had to go through the law in order to be saved? In what ways could Jews boast in this?

In what ways is justification a gift of God's grace (see Romans 4:5)?

2. The Work of Justification. (Romans 3:24b-25a)

In what ways is the propitiation (atonement, turning away God's wrath) that Jesus made on the cross so much better than the atonement the Jewish high priest could make on the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16 & Hebrews 9:6-12)?

In what ways is the work of justification God's work (see v. 25a)?

In what ways is God's wrath satisfied in Jesus' crucifixion (see Isaiah 53:11)?

3. The Nature of Justification. (Romans 3:25b-26)

In what ways does justification display God's justice (v. 25b)? Does God condone sin? Why or why not (see Exodus 34:6-7)?

In what ways can God be both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (v. 26)?

In what ways do we demonstrate faith in Jesus for justification?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?