

The Epistle to the Romans
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For Rogma International, Inc.

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Four Great Objectives Explained

Reading assignment: Romans 3

Introduction

In this lesson we leave behind the gloom and get a taste of glory. Most of the lessons until now dealt with the guilt and sinfulness of man and his utter inability to save himself. The section you are about to study begins with the words “BUT NOW” (Romans 3:21).

These words introduce the portion of our outline we have designated “**RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED FOR JUSTIFICATION.**” This subject extends through Romans 5 and contains some of the greatest doctrines of the Bible relating to salvation from sin. This lesson covers Romans 3:21-31.

Importance of this Lesson

- ❑ One of the greatest weaknesses among many professing Christians is their failure to firmly grasp and fully understand the basic doctrines relating to their salvation.
- ❑ In this lesson, we encounter the words: righteousness, justification, redemption, and propitiation.
- ❑ It is vastly important that you clearly understand these doctrines, for only then will you fully appreciate what Christ has done for you.

THE LESSON

I. RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested (revealed)...Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of (literally IN) Jesus Christ unto all and UPON all them that believe...(Romans 3:21-22).

- A. Righteousness could be interpreted as meaning all that God demands and approves.
- B. Romans 3:9-20 completely shatters any concept that man possesses or is capable of attaining God’s righteousness and clearly indicates that all men are desperately in need of the righteousness that only God can provide.
- C. The righteousness of God mentioned in Romans 3:21-22 does not refer to that righteousness which is an attribute of God but to that righteousness which is imputed unto all and upon all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. The Greek word for imputed is *logizomai* and means “reckoned to” or “placed to one’s account.” It is found eleven times in Romans 4. To see that Christ becomes our righteousness by faith, please refer to Philippians 3:9, Romans 10:4, and 2 Corinthians 5:21. For “clothed with righteousness,” see Job 29:14, Isaiah 61:10, and Genesis 3:21.
- E. Note especially that this righteousness is not obtainable through good works. It is “...without the law...” (Romans 3:21) and is possessed entirely “...by faith of Jesus Christ...” (Romans 3:22).
- F. This righteousness results in our justification.
- G. In Romans 3:23, sin is seen as missing the mark. To God there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for *...all have...come short of the glory (holiness) of God.*

II. JUSTIFICATION EXPLAINED (Romans 3:24)

In Romans 3:24, the Apostle Paul introduces the concept of justification. *Being JUSTIFIED freely by His grace....*

A. A definition –

1. Justification is a judicial courtroom word, which comes practically from the same Greek word translated righteousness. Basically, justification means to be declared righteous. **(Learn this definition.)**
2. Justification is divine acquittal. God, acting in the capacity of the sovereign judge of man, justly declares, considers as righteous, all who put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Standing in the courtroom in the righteousness of Christ

1. You are a guilty, unworthy sinner but you have turned to Christ and placed your faith in Him.
2. What did God do? He clothed you with the righteousness of Christ (Romans 3:22).
 - a. Now, clothed in that righteousness, you stand in God's courtroom to hear the sentence of the divine judge.
 - b. With great joy you hear Him say, "not guilty" (compare Romans 3:19).
3. How? On what basis is this declared? *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are IN Christ Jesus...* (Romans 8:1). Read Ephesians 1:6 and Philippians 3:9.

C. Justification is not mere pardon. A pardoned criminal is still guilty. In justification, God sees you just as though you had never sinned.

D. Seven facts about justification: **(Learn the following for your exam:)**

1. The Source or Author of Justification is God (Romans 3:25-26, 8:33).
2. The Origin or Ground of Justification is Grace (Romans 3:24).
3. The Cost or Basis of Justification is Blood (Romans 3:24-25, 5:9).
4. The Means or Method of Justification is Faith (Romans 3:28).
5. The Purpose or Objective of Justification is to Declare His Righteousness (Romans 3:26).
6. The Guarantee of Justification is the Resurrection (Romans 4:25).
7. The Result of Justification is Peace with God (Romans 5:1).

III. REDEMPTION EXPLAINED (Romans 3:24)

A. The New Testament Doctrine of Redemption revolves around three concepts:

1. Paying a ransom – We were in the control of sin and Satan. A ransom price had to be paid to redeem us. That price was the blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Peter 1:18,19, and Mark 10:45). Piracy was common in Paul's day. People were often captured and held for ransom.
2. Removal from under the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13 and 4:5).
3. Release from the enslavement of sin (Romans 6:6-7,14-18). The Bible views us as *...sold under sin* (Romans 7:14). In America, a civil war was fought to set slaves free. Christ died to set us all free from servitude.

B. "To redeem" means to "buy back." A little boy saw in a pawnshop a small boat that he had made and lost. His father gave him money to "buy it back." He held it close and said, "Now Boat, you are twice mine. Once I made you. Now I bought you". Christ paid the price to buy us back from the control of Satan and sin.

C. Bear in mind that our justification was made possible *...through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus...* (Romans 3:24). In other words, the redemptive work of Christ by which He paid our debt in full, made it possible for God to justify or declare us to be righteous.

IV. PROPITIATION EXPLAINED (Romans 3:25) *Whom God hath set forth* (meaning displayed publicly) *to be a PROPITIATION....*

- A. Whatever it means, it is ours ...*through faith in His blood....*
- B. In the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) and in Hebrews 9:5, the word “propitiation” is translated “mercy seat.” Note also Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2, 4:10.
 - 1. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the holy of holies within the tabernacle and sprinkle blood on the four corners of the mercy seat, first for his own sin (Hebrews 9:7) and then for the sins of the people of Israel. See Leviticus 16:14 and Hebrews 9:11-15, 4:14-16.
 - 2. The sprinkling of blood indicated that the righteous sentence of the law had typically been fulfilled so that God could now deal in mercy with Israel. Through the blood, what would have been a judgment seat became a mercy seat. God’s demands were satisfied. His claims were met. What would have been a judgment seat became a place of communion between God and the people of Israel.
 - 3. In fulfillment of the type and for all believers today, propitiation means that God’s wrath has been satisfied concerning sin. At the cross Christ Himself, our high priest, became our mercy seat—a mercy seat sprinkled with His own blood.
 - 4. For us, propitiation means restored relationship to God. It is Christ’s work God-ward on man’s behalf. There is only one place in the universe where a guilty sinner can meet and have blessed fellowship with God and that is at the cross where His justice was satisfied and His holiness was vindicated as to our sin.

V. COMMENTARY ON ROMANS 3:25-31

- A. Romans 3:25
 - 1. *Whom God has set forth....* See 1 John 4:10.
 - 2. *For the remission of sins* – The passing over of sins from Adam to Calvary.
 - 3. *...through the forbearance...* – Because He always foresaw the cross, God could forbear the sins that are past. All sins were remitted past, present, and future, by the propitiatory work of Christ.
- B. Romans 3:26
 - 1. *To declare...his righteousness...* – Because of the cross and the shed blood of Christ, God is declared righteous in forbearing the sins that are past.
 - 2. *...that he might be just, and the justifier...* – Here is God’s answer to Bildad who asks in Job 25:4, “How then can man be justified with God...?”, and to Socrates, who five hundred years before Christ, said to Plato, “It may be that the deity can forgive sin, but I do not see how.” The answer is that God can justify the believer and remain just because His justice was fully satisfied at the cross when Christ died in our place (Galatians 2:20) and was “made to be sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- C. Romans 3:27
Where is boasting... We are saved entirely through faith which leaves no room for boasting.
- D. Romans 3:28
Therefore we conclude... It is settled. The work is done. Salvation has to be by faith. Jesus paid for it in full.
- E. Romans 3:29-30
The only true God, the God of the Bible, is the God of both Jews and Gentiles and both are justified by faith alone.
- F. Romans 3:31
Does faith make the law void? No! Faith establishes the law. How? We establish the law when by faith we confess our utter sinfulness and desperate need of God’s righteousness in the light of it. Christ established the law by fulfilling it (Matthew 5:17), and bearing its full penalty (Galatians 3:13).

THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS
EXAM – LESSON 8

Name _____

Address _____

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1. The subject of Romans 3:21-31 is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. Righteousness required.
 - b. Righteousness lost through sin.
 - c. God's righteousness imputed for justification.
 2. A great weakness among Christians is: (Value 4 points)
 - a. their lack of reading the Bible.
 - b. their lack of understanding the doctrines of the Bible.
 - c. their lack of practicing the doctrines of the Bible.
 3. A possible meaning of righteousness as applied to the believer is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. all that God demands and approves.
 - b. all that God gives to the believer.
 - c. that God is always right in what He says.
 4. The phrase "righteousness of God" in Romans 3:21-22 refers to: (Open Bible) (Value 4 points)
 - a. God's righteousness as an attribute.
 - b. God's righteousness in all He does.
 - c. God's righteousness imputed to the believer.
 5. A believer obtains this righteousness through: (Value 4 points)
 - a. good works.
 - b. faith in Jesus Christ.
 - c. baptism.
 6. The meaning of "justification" is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. to be declared righteous.
 - b. to become a righteous person.
 - c. that a person is forgiven by God.
 7. The meaning of a "pardon" is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. to be declared righteous.
 - b. to become a righteous person.
 - c. that a person is forgiven.
 8. The high priest entered the holy of holies and sprinkled blood on the four corners of the mercy seat (the lid of the ark) on the occasion of: (Value 4 points)
 - a. the day of Pentecost.
 - b. the day of Atonement.
 - c. the feast of Tabernacles.

9. The blood that was sprinkled on the four corners of the mercy seat was: (Value 4 points)
- the blood of Christ.
 - the blood of the high priest.
 - the blood of an animal.
10. The blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat was a type of: (Value 5 points)
- Christ's sacrificial death.
 - the high priest.
 - the animal that was killed.
11. The fulfillment of the mercy seat in the tabernacle was: (Value 5 points)
- the cross where Christ shed His blood.
 - the garden where Christ sweat drops of blood.
 - the resurrection.
12. The lesson presents seven facts about justification. **Match** the two columns by placing the letter in front of the word in the blank space in front of the meaning. (Value 35 points)

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Word</u>
___ Author of justification	a. Faith
___ Ground of justification	b. Peace
___ Basis of justification	c. God
___ Method of justification	d. The resurrection
___ Purpose of justification	e. Grace
___ Guarantee of justification	f. Blood
___ Result of justification	g. To declare His righteousness

13. The New Testament doctrine of redemption revolves around three concepts. **Match** the concept and reference of each by placing the letter in front of the reference in the space in front of the concept. (Open Bible) (Value 15 points)

<u>Concept</u>	<u>Reference</u>
___ Paying a ransom	a. Romans 6:6-7
___ Removal from the curse of the law	b. 1 Corinthians 6:20
___ Release from the enslavement of sin	c. Galatians 3:13

Decision Time

I realize that I am a sinner and do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I understand that I am guilty before God, bound for eternal punishment and separation from God. In this lesson I have learned that God's righteousness is available to me also if I will believe in Jesus Christ. Knowing all this, I am repenting of my sin and by the power of God I am forsaking them. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for my sin and rose again from the dead on the third day. I believe He is living in heaven at this time.

Therefore I _____ receive Him as my personal Savior on this
_____ day of _____ 20__