

**The Epistle to the Romans
(Special English Edition)**

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Four Great Objectives Explained

Reading assignment: Romans 3

Introduction

In this lesson we leave pessimism behind and get a taste of glory. Most of the lessons until now dealt with the guilt and sinfulness of man and his complete 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 concerning salvation from sin. This lesson covers Romans 3:21-31.

Importance of this Lesson

- ❑ One of the greatest weaknesses among many people who say they are Christians is their failure to fully understand the basic doctrines concerning their salvation.
- ❑ In this lesson, we will find the words: righteousness, justification, redemption, and propitiation.
- ❑ It is very important that you clearly understand these doctrines, because 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 to mean all that God demands and approves.
- B. Romans 3:9-20 completely destroys the idea that man is able to make himself righteous before God. These verses clearly teach that all men are desperately in need of the righteousness that only God can give them.
- C. The righteousness of God mentioned in Romans 3:21-22 does not refer to that righteousness which is a characteristic of God but to that righteousness which is imputed to every person who believes 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 understand that Christ becomes our righteousness by faith, please read Philippians 3:9, Romans 10:4, and 2 Corinthians 5:21. For “clothed with righteousness,” read Job 29:14, Isaiah 61:10, and Genesis 3:21.
- E. Note especially that people cannot earn this righteousness by doing good works. It is “...without the law...” (Romans 3:21) and is received entirely “...by faith of (in) Jesus Christ...” (Romans 3:22).
- F. The result of this righteousness is justification. (Justification is explained in the next section)
- G. In Romans 3:23, sin means “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 idea of justification. *Being JUSTIFIED freely by His grace....*

A. A definition –

1. Justification is a legal courtroom word, which comes practically from the same Greek word translated righteousness. Basically, justification means that God states that you are right with him. **(Learn this definition.)**
2. Justification is God stating that the person is no longer guilty. God, acting as the sovereign judge of man, rightly states that every person who puts his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is considered as right with God.

B. Standing in the courtroom dressed with 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 dressed you with the righteousness of Christ (Romans 3:22).
 - a. Now, dressed in that righteousness, you stand in God's courtroom to hear the sentence of the judge who is God Himself.
 - b. With great joy you hear Him say, "not guilty" (compare Romans 3:19).
3. How? On what basis does God state this? *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 a pardon. A criminal who has received a pardon 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 of Justification is God (Romans 3:25-26, 8:33).
2. The Foundation of Justification is Grace (Romans 3:24).
3. The Cost of Justification is Blood (Romans 3:24-25, 5:9).
4. The Method of Justification is Faith (Romans 3:28).
5. The Reason for 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 things that are true:

1. Payment of a price – We were under the control of sin and Satan. A price had to be paid to buy us back. That price was the blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Peter 1:18,19, and Mark 10:45). In Paul's day criminals often captured people and held them until a price was paid to set them free.
2. Removal from under the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13 and 4:5).
3. Freedom from the power of sin (Romans 6:6-7,14-18). The Bible sees 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 being a slave to sin.

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

C. Keep in mind that our justification was made possible *...through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus...* (Romans 3:24). In other words, it was possible for God to state that we are righteous because Christ paid our debt in full when he bought us back from sin.

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 entered the holy of holies in the temple and sprinkled the blood of a sacrifice animal on the four corners of the mercy seat. The mercy seat was the lid of the ark, which the people kept in the holy of holies. He did this 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. This blood was a picture of the blood of Christ. When the priest sprinkled this blood it was a picture of the time when the judgment of the law had been fulfilled. After that was done God could treat Israel with mercy. A place of judgment became a place of mercy and so the lid of the ark was called the mercy seat. The offering and sprinkling the blood of the animal as a picture of Christ on the cross satisfied God’s demands. The judgment seat became a mercy seat where God could meet with His people.
 - 3. The Old Testament type is now fulfilled for all believers because Christ’s blood was spilled on the cross of Calvary. Propitiation means that God is no longer angry with the believer concerning sin. At the cross Christ Himself became our high priest and also our mercy seat—a mercy seat sprinkled with His own blood.
 - 4. For the believer, propitiation means that he is again connected to God. It is Christ’s work for man to bring man back to God. 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. The death of Christ on the cross satisfied the justice of God. It also defended the holiness of God. The death of Christ on the cross showed that God was right when he demanded punishment for sin. If God had not sacrificed His own son as a punishment for sin, but accepted man without the punishment of his sin, God would no longer be holy.

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* – God passed over man’s sins from Adam until Jesus actually died on the cross.
 - 3. *...through the forbearance...* – Because God always looked forward to the cross, God could be merciful concerning the sins that are past. God forgave all sins, past, present, and future, because of the sacrificial work of Christ on the cross.
- B. Romans 3:26
 - 1. *To declare...his righteousness...* – Because of the cross and the shed blood of Christ, the Bible says that God is righteous in forgiving 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 God can forgive sin, but I do not see how.” The answer is that God can declare the believer as right with Himself and remain righteous Himself because His justice was fully satisfied at the cross when Christ died in our place (Galatians 2:20). When Christ 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 useless? No! Faith proves that the law is right. How? We prove that the law is right when by faith we confess our sinfulness and need of God's righteousness. Christ proved that the law was right by fulfilling it (Matthew 5:17), and suffering the full penalty of the law (Galatians 3:13).

THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS
EXAM – LESSON 8

Name _____

Address _____

-
1. The subject of Romans chapter 3 is: (Value 5 points)
 - a. Righteousness required.
 - b. Righteousness lost through sin.
 - c. Righteousness imputed for justification.

 2. One of the great weaknesses among Christians today in regard to doctrine is: (Value 4 points)
 - a. a lack of reading the Bible.
 - b. a lack of understanding the doctrines of the Bible.
 - c. a 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. righteousness given 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 (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.
 - 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 of the following things relative to 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__