

Living Connections Bible Study



The Righteousness of God

Text: Romans 3:21-31

Prayer:

Icebreaker: Discuss some different ways that people try to get to Heaven.

The Righteousness of God announced in Romans 1:16-17, and then explained to us in our text does not refer to the righteous character of God. This phrase refers to God's plan to justify sinners, to make us righteous in His eyes, declaring us just before His holy Law, acquitting sinners from punishment, admitting us to His favor, and treating us as innocent, as if our offences had never occurred.

1. How does the natural man fail to measure up to God's standard, which disqualifies him to enter Heaven? Romans 3:10, 23, 1 Corinthians 6:9

2. How does Romans 3:21 describe *the righteousness of God*, and how was it revealed during the Old Testament era?

3. How must sinners receive the gift of God's righteousness and to whom is this righteousness made available? Romans 3:22; John 3:16; Acts 16:31

4. Who was the only one who ever measured up to God's perfect and holy standard of righteousness? Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15

5. How much did it cost Christ so we can receive God's gift of righteousness? Define Grace. Romans 3:24

Grace is God's
 Righteousness
 At
 Christ's
 Expense

6. Look up and define *propitiation*. How did Christ satisfy the justice of God against our sins? Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2

7. How was God's just and righteous character put on display for all to see, even while pardoning, declaring, and treating sinners who trust the Savior as righteous? Romans 3:26; Exodus 34:5-7; Isaiah 53:4-6

8. How does the *righteousness of God*, His plan to save sinners through the cross, do away with boasting and pride so prevalent in false religions where men are urged to earn God's favor through works – rites, rituals, rules and regulations? Romans 3:27; Ephesians 2:8-9

9. What great theme of the book of Romans do we find in Romans 3:28?

10. What great division was done away with through God's gift of righteousness? Romans 3:29-30; Ephesians 2:11-16

Christians agree that faith is the means to justification and acceptance with God for both Jew and Gentile. But...

11. How is the Jew justified *by his faith*, while the Gentile is justified *through faith*

Think About it this week:

In what ways does the *Righteousness of God*, His plan to justify sinners through faith establish the intent of the Law – The Ten Commandments.

The Law was never given to make men righteous. God's perfect and righteous standard, revealed in the Ten Commandments, is meant to condemn the sinner, thus crowding us to the Savior and the sacrifice He provided for us at Calvary. According to Galatians 3:24 *The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.* And once we have been justified by faith we have the living Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, enabling us to obey the Law's demands. Not only that, but because of Christ's great love for us, and recognizing the awful penalty that He paid on the cross we are motivated to hate sin, love sinners, and to love righteousness, and thus the righteousness of the Law will be fulfilled in us.