

Communion Series

“Understanding the Cross”

**Developing a Biblical/Theological
Understanding of the Death of Christ**

The Accomplishment of the Cross

What did Jesus achieve by His death?

➤ **The salvation of sinners!**

- **in His substitutionary death, Jesus suffered the penalty for our sins and died our death, and thereby rescued us from eternal death and judgment**
- **the Bible communicates this truth using a variety of images**

The Accomplishment of the Cross

Images of the Atonement

1. Language of the Temple (sacrificial)

- key word: “*propitiation*”; emphasis – the wrath of God being turned away by a sacrifice

2. Language of the Market Place (economic)

- key word: “*redemption*”; emphasis – the great price paid to deliver the helpless sinner

3. Language of the Law-court (judicial)

- key word: “*justification*”

Justification

Imagery: God is a righteous judge

- we will all appear before the tribunal of God for sentencing – either condemnation or justification

Definition: “to be declared righteous”

- legal declaration not a moral transformation
- when God justifies us, He is declaring us righteous not making us righteous

Argument of Romans

1. Thesis (1:16-17)

- The Gospel reveals that the righteousness which comes from God is by faith

2. Problem (1:18-3:20)

- The unrighteous of all men
 - The righteous judgment of God
 - Conclusion: No one will be declared righteous in God's sight based on their own righteousness
- **Dilemma:** *How can God declare unrighteous people to be righteous and still maintain His righteousness?*

Argument of Romans

3. Solution (3:21-30)

- There is a just justification from God for sinners, not by the law but by faith;

A. Grounds of Justification

- The atoning death of Christ; Jesus suffered our just judgment which allows us to be justified
- Demonstrates God's righteousness

B. Means of Justification

- “by faith” – opposite of works; means by which we are united to Christ

Result

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1)

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1)