

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans 3:21-26

"The chief point... of the whole Bible" (*Luther*)

²¹ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;
²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;
²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

(Romans 3:21-26)

God's Righteousness Manifested

➤ Context

- 1:16-17: the gospel reveals the saving activity of God (through judgment) in which He is vindicated
- 1:18-3:20: God's charge that all humanity is under sin so that He is justified in His condemnation

God's Righteousness Manifested

1. Apart From the Law

- "*but now*" – a temporal contrast between the old era and the new era inaugurated in Christ
- "*apart from the Law*" – God's righteousness has been made known apart from the Old Covenant and is received apart from Law-keeping

God's Righteousness Manifested

1. Apart From the Law

- "*witnessed by the Law and prophets*" – the Old Testament anticipates this final, great deliverance by God of His people through Messiah

God's Righteousness Manifested

2. Received by Faith Alone

- God's righteousness is given (as a gift) through faith apart from any works
- this faith has as its object Jesus Christ, crucified and risen
- this righteousness is for *all* who believe

God's Righteousness Manifested

3. Available Only to Sinners

- God's righteousness is available to *all* through faith because *all* alike are sinners
- sin is essentially a rejection of the glory of God in exchange for that which is not God