

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

“He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous,  
Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.”

(Proverbs 17:15)

“...believes in Him who justifies the ungodly...”

(Romans 4:5)

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,  
<sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;  
<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
<sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;  
<sup>25</sup> 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;  
<sup>26</sup> 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)

## Romans 3:21-26

➤ *God justifies the ungodly...*

- (1) through faith alone (*instrument*)
- (2) by grace alone (*manner*)
- (3) in Christ alone (*ground/basis*)

## Romans 3:21-26

“whom God displayed publicly as a *propitiation* by His blood through faith...” (3:25)

## “Propitiation By His Blood”

### 1. Definition of Propitiation

- to appease or placate the wrath of one offended; to turn away someone's anger
- in the OT propitiation is at the heart of the sacrifices for atonement (*hilasterion* – possible allusion to the “mercy seat”)



"kapporet" – atonement cover ("mercy seat")

## "Propitiation By His Blood"

### 2. Necessity of Propitiation

- God's wrath issuing in His retributive justice has been revealed against all mankind (1:18-3:20)
- God's righteousness necessarily includes His vindication through our judgment

## "Propitiation By His Blood"

### 3. Accomplishment of Propitiation

- God Himself initiated and made propitiation through the giving of His Son for us (cf. 1 John 4:10)
- Christ's representative death was the penalty of God's retributive justice for our sin

"He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21)