

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

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 might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

(Romans 3:21-26)

God's Righteousness Manifested (pt. 4)

➤ 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 (pt. 4)

Q: If we are the objects of God's just retribution in which He is justified, how can we also be the objects of His saving righteousness?

A: Romans 3:21-26 – "*but now...*"

God's Righteousness Manifested (pt. 4)

➤ *God justifies the ungodly...*

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

God's Righteousness Manifested (pt. 4)

➤ *God justifies the ungodly...*

"...there can be no justification of the sinner which is not simultaneously a justification of God in his wrath against the sinner." (M. Seifrid; *Christ, Our Righteousness*)

God's Righteousness Manifested (pt. 4)

1. The Purpose of Christ's Death

- "to demonstrate God's righteousness" – that God is vindicated in His contention against mankind
- in justifying sinners God's contention with humanity is not set aside but brought to completion in His Son

God's Righteousness Manifested (pt. 4)

2. The Need for this Demonstration

A. In the past (before the cross)

- God delayed the full execution of His retributive justice for sins
- Forgiveness under the Old Covenant has its ultimate basis in the death of Christ

God's Righteousness Manifested (pt. 4)

2. The Need for this Demonstration

B. In the present ("now")

- that God might be just *and* the justifier of the ungodly through faith in Jesus
- faith in Jesus is acknowledging our guilt and just condemnation before God, and taking hold of Christ as our righteousness