



A DIFFERENT KIND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Life Group Study -- Week of March 3, 2019

Memorize.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Romans 3:21-22

Open. If you had a minute in an elevator to explain to someone how we can be right with God, what would you say?

Study. Read Romans 3:21-26

This passage is relatively short, so begin by reading Romans 3:21-26 aloud in two or three modern translations.

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim's message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions did it raise for you, if any?

Read verses 21-22 against the background of verses 19-20. Why is this announcement such radically good news?

"Righteousness" in this case implies a judicial verdict declaring God's approval. Who is included in this verdict? Who is excluded? Why?

In verse 22, Paul states that this righteousness comes to us through faith in Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 2:8-9, he says that salvation is *by grace through faith*, not as the result of *works*. And yet in John 6:28-29, Jesus refers to believing as *work*. Is faith a "receiving" or a "doing"? Can you and I add something essential to God's grace?

According to verse 23, what is true of every human being? What does "fall short" mean?

Follow the progression of Paul's thought as he describes God's response to our predicament in verses 24-25, and discuss the effect of each of the following words or phrases (*ESV*):

- ...justified...
- ...by his grace, as a gift...
- ...through the redemption (*the buying back of slaves and captives*) that is in Christ Jesus...
- ...whom God put forward as a propitiation (*a sacrifice that satisfies the wrath of God*) by his blood...
- ...to be received by faith.

Read verses 25b-26 in light of Hebrews 11:39-40. How is God shown to be "*just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*"?

Have you been viewing your salvation as something you had a part in obtaining, or entirely and exclusively something God accomplished for you?

How has this study moved you to praise and worship the One who justifies?

Remember to pray for, and share Christ with your

