



GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

JEFF STEVENS | ROMANS 3:21-26

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NOTES:

Romans 1:20, Romans 1:16-17

I. God's righteousness is through **faith**. (vs. 21-22)

Genesis 15:6, 1 Peter 1:10-12,

II. God's righteousness is through **grace**. (vs. 23-25a)

1. A **summation** of the gospel

2. Paul is **not** teaching universalism.

3. **Propitiation** - what does this mean?

Hebrews 7:26-27

III. God's righteousness is through **justice**. (vs. 25b-26)

1. Christ's death reveals God's **demand** for justice.

2. God the Father and Jesus are in **agreement**.

Hebrews 12:2

3. How were people **saved** in the Old Testament?

Romans 1:1-6

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

REVIEW:

1. Last week Pastor Bob taught a message on Total Depravity. Did your understanding that everyone is a sinner have any impact on your week? How did you see the ugliness of sin, and the beauty of God on display?

THIS WEEK'S SERMON:

1. As Jeff said, this week's passage starts with a grand transition of "but now." What is being emphasized in this transition and contrast?

2. Personally, how is God's righteousness being revealed in our lives?

3. Romans says "The Law and Prophets" of the Old Testament had been pointing to something that was now fully revealed in Jesus. Read Luke 24:25-27. What sort of things were included in this unique Old Testament bible study? (Genesis 15:6, 22:18, Numbers 21:9, Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 6:12-13)
4. "God's righteousness is through BELIEF." Notice how belief is repeatedly emphasized by Jesus (John 3:16, 6:28-29, 11:26). Why are there still many people who say "this is too simple"?
5. "God's righteousness is through GRACE." Grace is defined as getting something that we don't deserve. Why is it critical to remember that grace is a gift and not something we earned? How do people (religions) try to "pay" for salvation?
6. "Propitiation" is a word rarely used today, but it's important to realize that what Jesus did on the cross completely satisfied the wrath that God has towards sin and sinners. Read 1 John 4:9-11. How does "propitiation" relate to loving others and loving God?
7. "God's righteousness is through JUSTICE." What are some of our reactions when we witness injustice in our world? Discuss the irony that the greatest injustice we could ever witness is that a perfect God would die for mankind. Why is it important to remember that God doesn't overlook our sin, but that it has been dealt with through Jesus' death?
8. "Jesus paid it all." The gospel isn't a joint venture project – we don't pay some. But the lyrics to the famous hymn Jesus Paid it All say "all to him I owe." What does it mean to never pay him back, but owe him everything?