

### **Romans 3:21- 4:3, Justified.**

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10: As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.

Verses to memorize this week: **The penalty of sin, Rom. 6:23:**

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

**Rom. 5:12:** “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Sin spread throughout the whole world and everything began to grow old and die).

In the first two chapters of Romans, Paul establishes the fact that God shows no partiality. He expects righteous living from both Jews and Gentiles. The Jews have the covenants and the Law, and the Gentiles intuitively have the knowledge of God written in their hearts. Both, Jews and Gentiles, have no excuse for not knowing God and His standards (“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not” Ecclesiastes 7:20) (“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”. Genesis 6:5). Paul is trying to teach the Jews that we are now in the church age and to be a true Jew is not determined by nationality, but by submission to God.

Our printed lesson does not start until 3:21. For background, look at Romans 3:1-2. The Jews are still God’s choice nation and God will keep all His promises and covenants, but Jews are lost if all they do is try to keep the Law. Verses 9 & 10 shows that all (Jews and Gentiles) are under sin, and verse 20 says no flesh can be justified by deeds of the Law. Before we begin the printed lesson, we need to understand the word “justify”: It is the act of God, the Father, declaring that person righteous. He does that because Jesus paid the penalty for that person’s sin and covers that person with His own absolute righteousness. The atonement that Jesus made, in heaven, with His blood covers our sins. Our lesson is going to answer the question: *How can ungodly sinners be justified by an absolutely holy God?*

**READ ROMANS 3:21-23.** Through the fore knowledge of God, He knew that man would sin and be under the penalty of death, so God made a plan to redeem man from the slavery of sin. In His plan, He

first established the Ten Commandments that gave man the knowledge of sin and became God's standard of perfection. Since man cannot gain perfection by keeping the commandments ("For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10), God devised a plan to save sinners, yet meet the demand that only the righteous can enter into heaven. God's righteousness demands death for the sinner, but His love desires to give sinners happiness and eternal life with Him.

**READ ROMANS 3:24-29.** The good news of Jesus Christ is the answer. Christ was promised in Genesis 3:15 and hundreds of other places in the bible, such as the Psalms and the Prophets. Our righteousness is obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. It is a free gift. The gift of eternal life with Christ is free, all you have to do is believe and accept the gift. It is there for everybody, but they have to take action to accept it. It is by grace, through faith that you are saved. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). "Propitiation" is the covering of the mercy seat with blood. In the Old Testament, the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies only one day per year. After cleansing himself, he took the sacrificial blood and sprinkled it on the mercy seat to cover the sins of Israel for one year. Jesus goes into the Holy of Holies **one time** with His own blood to cover the sins of all people for all time. Another definition of "propitiation" may be "to render favorable". Jesus covers our sin and makes us look favorable to God. We have nothing to boast about, we cannot be good enough to earn heaven, we are justified with God without works or deeds of the Law. The Jews and Gentiles are saved exactly the same way; faith in Jesus Christ as the son of God who gave His life as the perfect Passover Lamb sacrificed to save sinners.

The written lesson continues through 4:3, but I feel this is enough to take in at one time. May God lead you and bless you as you read this lesson.

Next Week's memory verses: **MUST BE PAID:** Romans 14:10b "for we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Hebrews 2:2-3 "For if the work spoken by angels is steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of

reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at he first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him”.

What I get out of this lesson is: This is a summary of God’s plan and explains the plan of salvation pretty well. We are all sinners and need to repent of our sins, believe in Jesus as the son of God and as the substitute for our death giving us eternal life with Him through His grace and the faith that He gives us.

Next Week: Romans 5:1-11, At peace.