
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.org/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Romans 3:21-26

[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Sermon Outline

- I. The Revelation of God's Righteousness (21)
- II. The Way of God's Righteousness: Faith in Jesus Christ (22-23)
- III. The Source of God's Righteousness: Justification by Grace (24a)
- IV. The Purchase of God's Righteousness: Redemption in Christ (24b)
- V. The Cost of God's Righteousness: Propitiation in His Blood (25a)
- VI. The Demonstration/Vindication of God's Righteousness: The Justice of God (25b-26)

Life Group Leader Notes:



Weekly Discussion Guide

We just finished a 3-week series on evangelism. Pastor Scott discussed some essential questions in evangelism: *who, how, and what*. (Matthew 11 on John the Baptist; John 1 - come and see; Romans 3:21-26 on the heart of the gospel). What has impacted you in this series? What have you learned? Where were you challenged? Has anyone in the group been compelled to share the gospel with a nonbeliever?

Pastor Scott began the sermon this week with a few quotes on the importance of Romans 3:21-26. Were you aware of the importance of this paragraph in the Bible? What is your experience with this passage? What were your main takeaways from this text?

In verse 21, God's righteousness was revealed *apart* from the law. Why is the law insufficient to save us? Has anyone ever been justified by works of the law (see verse 20)? How have you tried to rely on works of the law for salvation? How might this slip into a religious community? Are your friends relying on some version of a law for their salvation?

The first three chapters of Romans describe the helplessness of humanity. One of the greatest challenges in our evangelism is to help our friends understand that they are lost. What verses in Romans would you go to to demonstrate this? Are there any other verses you would take someone to? Why is it important to talk about sin when you evangelize? What would you lose if you eliminated the notion of sin from your evangelism conversations?

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus *justified* us (verse 24). What does justification mean? What is the difference between "pardon" and "justification" (or acquittal)? Why does this matter? How can you explain this difference to a nonbeliever?

Salvation is free for us, but it was not free for Christ. What was the cost of redemption? What does the word propitiation mean? Why would it be important to talk about a complex word like this in our evangelism conversations?

Romans 3:21-26 gives a powerful description of the gospel. It is a rich and glorious text, but it is filled with theological words. How could you translate the truth of this paragraph to someone who has very little understanding of the Bible? Perhaps you could give a model of a gospel presentation with Romans 3:21-26 as a guide, or even break up into smaller groups at life group and work on translating the outline of this text into a gospel presentation.

