

Romans 3:21-4:25  
The Big Picture of  
God's Righteousness Through Faith  
What a Gift!

We have spent weeks working through the fact that we deserve nothing but hell for all the actions we do. We recognize that by God's judgment even our best works are worthless. No one can reach righteousness by obeying the law since perfection is demanded and it is an impossibility for anyone other than Jesus.

What are we assuming here? We assume that righteousness is our greatest need! Having the latest gadget or even having good health are not as important as this. Getting married and having kids are not as important. Living another day is not as important. Nothing is as important as being accepted by God. He created you and that means He is the one who says what your life is to be.

1:18-3:20 are depressing and just continue to take you further down into depravity. There is no hope in that section. There is no answer. We all deserve hell and there is nothing we can do about it. Let that sink in for a few moments. How would you feel if that were true? What would you do next?

For an unbeliever, this is their current state. As a Believer, this is hard for me to think about. In evangelism we move so quickly from sin to Jesus that I think we do the people a disservice.

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 19, 32

Do you believe that this is the proper response if Christianity is not true?

#### Our Passage

We are guilty and there is no hope! If you cannot work to get righteousness, what can you do?

What could possibly be the answer?

"But now..."

Paul returns to 1:16-17 and his point there. God solves our problem.

You can have all of your sins forgiven: past, present and future.

You can be welcomed into heaven with welcome arms like the prodigal son.

You can have access to God Himself through prayer.

You can have God's perfect sovereignty working for you to bring you perfection and constantly working for your good.

You can be at peace with the God of the universe.

#### How?

Have faith in Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior.

Trust Him to solve your problems His way.

Trust Him even when you cannot see what He is doing or how it will work.

Live your life like you trust Him with it and believe everything He said.

#### How is that not work?

He only causes this faith to happen in those He is working in. Therefore, even if you trust Him, it is only because He is gracious.

Salvation is a gift that you can never earn or you would be able to boast.

### **FREE GIFT**

*Romans 3:22-24*

*Romans 4:4-11, 16-7*

This sets it apart from working for it through law.

Gifts cannot be earned. You have nothing you can do to get this righteousness.

Everyone who can believe gets this righteousness. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Remember that this is the point in the previous sections.

### **SO NO BOASTING**

*Romans 3:27-28*

*Romans 4:1-8*

Since you did not earn it, you cannot boast because you got it.

You had nothing to do with the deal. You are the direct object in the sentence. Things were done TO you, not by you.

Humility would be the correct response. How can I be excited about me when I brought nothing but sin?

### **ALL THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS**

What is faith?

See the problem someone might bring up concerning all of this is: "I believed! That means I did something! If I didn't believe, I wouldn't receive this salvation."

Yes and no.

If you added something, then it is not a free gift.

If you didn't add something like faith, where did it come from? God gave that as a free gift too.

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

What does this faith look like?

Abraham is our example.

*Romans 4:18-25*

**Salvation is not gained by trusting in yourself, but rather by trusting in God's provision of a free grace.**

**Where are you trusting Him and where are you trusting you?**