

**Justification
(God's Righteousness)
by Grace
Through Faith**

Romans 3:21-26

The Most Important Doctrine in the Bible!

Summary of God's Wrath & Judgement

Wrath – Why?

(Romans 1:18-24)

1. Revelation – Creation
2. No Thankfulness
3. Rationalization of Sin
“professing to be wise-fools”
4. False Religion / Idolatry

Wrath – Results

(Romans 1:24-32)

ABANDONMENT

1. Sexual Immorality
2. Degrading Passions
3. Reprobate Mind – no conscience/madness
4. All other Sin
5. Approve Sin of Others

Judgement Principles

(Romans 2:1-11)

1. No Excuse (for “moral” or “religious” people)
2. According to Truth
3. No Escape of Judgement
4. Failure to Appreciate God's Kindness
5. Deeds
6. Impartial

**IF YOU REJECT GOD,
GOD REJECTS YOU**

Romans 3:9-20

The Final Verdict – Whole World Guilty

- Climax of section 1:18-3:8, portrays the world on trial before God in the heavenly courtroom.
1. **The Charge:** **All are under sin** (3:9)
 2. **The Evidence:** **Total depravity of Humanity** (3:10-18)
 - “There is none righteous, no, not one!” (3:10)
 - Psalm 14:1-3 (3:10-12 – **MIND & ACTIONS** corrupt);
 - Psalm 5:9 (3:13a - **WORDS**);
 - Psalm 140:3b (3:13b); Psalm 10:7 (3:14-16 - **RELATIONSHIPS**);
 - Isaiah 59:7-8a (3:17); Psalm 36:1b (3:18 - **ATTITUDE**)
 3. **The Verdict:** **All are guilty.** No one will be justified by the works of the law. Law is knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:9-20

The Final Verdict – Whole World Guilty

- **Sin results in “total depravity”** (i.e. Lord of the Flies book principle).
- People like to think they are good, but deep in everyone’s heart we know there is a problem – **GUILT**
- We feel guilt for the things we do, say and think because we are GUILTY. This often leads to addiction, depression and suicide.
- Our guilt is only the symptom – **the cause is SIN!!!**
- **Until the Holy Spirit convicts a person of their sin, they cannot be saved. The Law results in God’s wrath.**
- It is only **PRIDE** that keeps a person from confessing they are sinner.

Romans 3:9-20

The Final Verdict – Whole World Guilty

- All this points to the solution:
 - It's not found in “making the world a better place” through “works”, or in political ideologies, but is only found through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - The problems of the world are because the heart of man is corrupt to the core.
 - **Therefore the Great Commission of sharing the gospel message and teaching God's Truths to others is the solution to making the World a Better Place!!!**

God's Law - Summary

- Rom. 3:9 “...**they are all under sin**” ...Rom 3:10 “**There is none righteous, no, not one.**”
- Rom 3:19 “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law (**Israel only**): that every mouth may be stopped (**no excuse**), **and all the world may become guilty before God.** (**Roman's already proved that the Gentiles are guilty in Chapter 1 & 2**)
- Rom 3:20 “**Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified** (**accounted righteous or saved**) in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**” (**mirror – you can see the dirt on your face in a mirror, but you can't wash your face with the mirror – it's not a remedy**)

God's Grace - Summary

- Rom 3:21 “**But now** (in view of the death of Jesus Christ) **the righteousness of God** (standard demanded by God to be saved—you must be 7 feet tall) **without the law is manifested** (this is new teaching for the Jews), **being witnessed by the law and the prophets** (over 300 Old Testament prophecies of 1st Coming - Jesus Christ/Redeemer)
- Rom 3:22 “**Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.**” (**NOT WORKS or RELIGION**— this is a new era of **FAITH** to Receive Salvation):
- Rom 3:22b & 23 “**for there is no difference:** ; (not a question of degree of sin, but in the fact of sin – Sin is Universal)²³ **For all have sinned** (once you reach the age of accountability – 7 or 8), **and come short of the glory of God**, (and therefore we are all **GUILTY** in the sight of God).

Short Video Summary

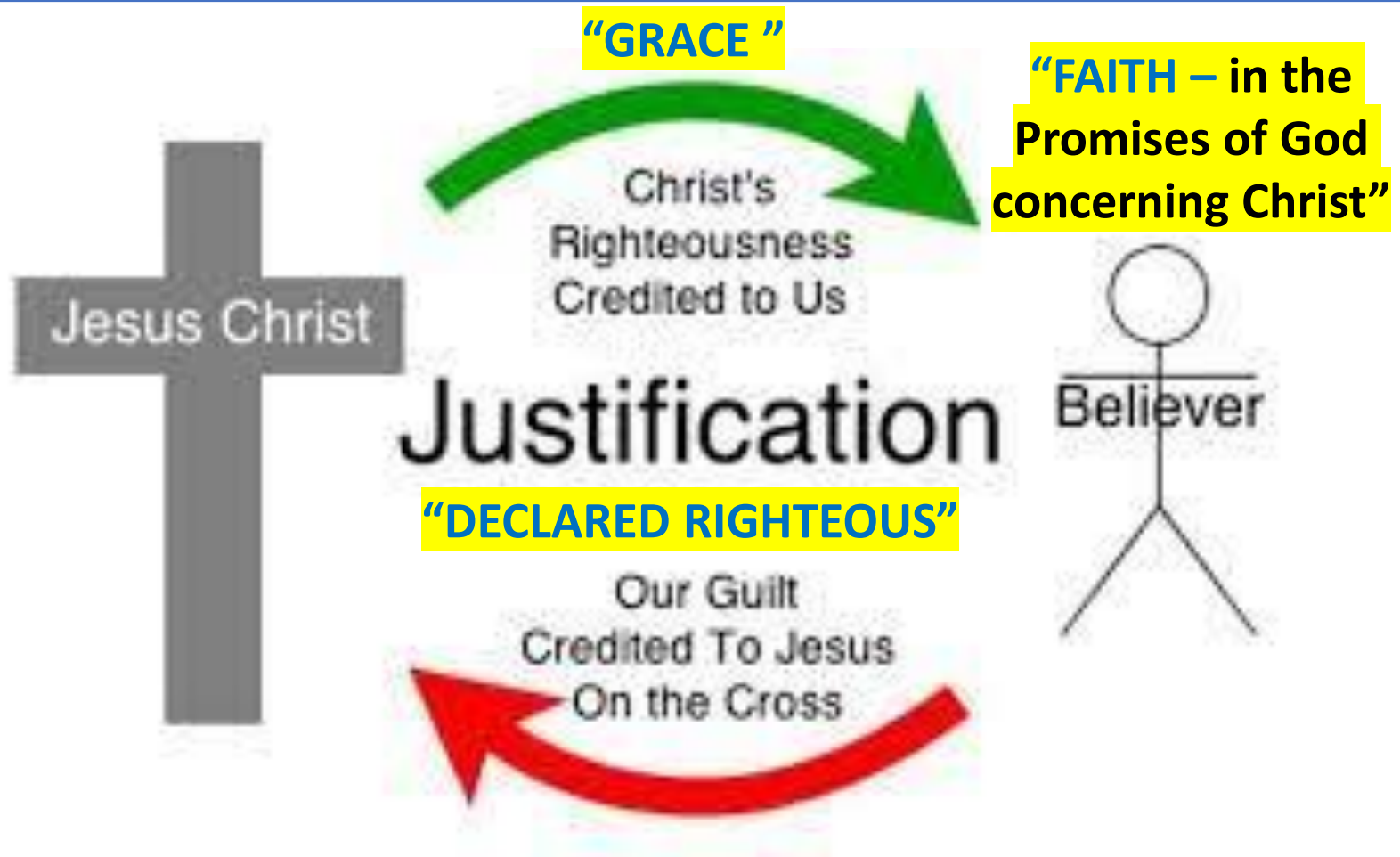
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4lvHr4MekI>

Justification
(God's Righteousness)
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Romans 3:21-26

The Most Important Doctrine in the Bible!

ROMANS 3:21-26



- Justice is getting what we deserve,
- Grace is getting what we don't deserve.

Isaiah 53:6 – Man’s Ruin & God’s Remedy

- All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Sheep is the one animal that can never find it's way home (stupid animal). We are all lost sheep without a shepherd.

Ps. 23; Mark 6:34; John 10:14

God searches for us, we do not search for God. The Holy Spirit must convict us of sin.

Rev. 3:20

We need to make a choice, either we TURN our way, or turn to God (REPENT & BELIEVE – **Mark 1:15**).

Sin results in eternal spiritual **Death**.



God laid our sin on Jesus Christ. We must make a decision to accept this Salvation - **John 1:12**.

Jesus' Sacrifice satisfied God. We are forgiven & given eternal **LIFE**.

Romans 3:21-26– Justification by Faith

The Remedy to man's sin problem (once he confesses it) and the wrath of God is finally revealed...the Salvation/Righteousness/Justification of God is through Faith in Jesus Christ.

Justification

To declare **legally righteous** (2 Cor. 5:21); Righteousness of God is required for Salvation, and is found in Christ Himself. God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin (eternal death) while at the same time making a sinner righteous (eternal life) through Christ's substitutionary atoning sacrifice. (Rom. 4:6; 5:9). **Our sins are imputed to Christ & His righteousness is imputed to us – What a salvation!**

Freely

Same word as John 15:25; **“without a cause”**. It is without any cause that God justifies sinners, it's not only that it's free, but that there is no reason or grounds or anything good in us that merits God's favour.

Grace

An undeserved **Gift** (unmerited), out of **love and mercy** (Rom. 5:8)



Just & Justifier

- **Just** - All sin will be judged & punished (eternal death) according to God's standard of righteousness – **HOLY**
- **Justifier** - saving the sinner by the shedding of Christ's blood- **LOVING**

Redemption

To deliver by paying a price (**Ransom price to purchase our freedom from Satan was Jesus life – Mark 10:45**), we are slaves, sold to Satan under sin (Rom. 7:14) by the first Adam, sentenced to death (Rom. 6:23), but redeemed by the purchase price of the shed **blood** of the Redeemer

Propitiation

Mercy Seat (lid of the Ark of the Covenant), the act of appeasing the wrath of God – **or Satisfaction for man's sin** - the righteous sentence of the law is legally satisfied by mercy rather than judgement (like a pardon & expungement).

Atonement

Sacrifice for ongoing **forgiveness of sin**, it used to be on Day of Atonement by **substitutionary** animal sacrifices, but Jesus' **sacrifice** was the final atonement for sin.

Justice is getting what we deserve (Hell), Grace is getting what we don't deserve (Heaven).

Romans 3 – Scripture

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI13kF5Oo2k->
- Start at 1:25 minutes mark

Most Important Question of Humanity

“But how can a man be righteous before God?”

Job 9:2

In other words, how can I be right with God to escape His judgement & ensure my eternal salvation? **The universal question of religion.**

Most Important Truth of Christianity

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed...through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe”

Romans 3:21-22

Righteousness – From God, Forever

Isaiah 61 – The Chapter Jesus Read in the Synagogue

- “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,
Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,...
- And will make with them an everlasting covenant...
- For He has clothed me with the **garments of salvation**,
He has covered me with the robe of **righteousness**,
As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments,
- So the Lord **GOD will cause righteousness** and praise to spring forth
before all the nations.
- **Psalm 119: 142** “Your righteousness *is* an **everlasting righteousness**”

Romans 3:21

21 But now the **righteousness** of God apart from the law is **revealed**, being witnessed by the Law and the **Prophets**,

7 Feet Tall = Righteous Requirement of Law = Glory of God

Don't measure yourself by judging others (works)



Jesus Christ Fulfills the Righteous Requirement
(Rom. 3:21-22; Matt. 3:15; Matt. 5:17)

“For there is no difference (drug addict, morally nice person, self-righteous person) for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

No one will ever measure up to the acceptable standard of 7 Feet Tall (Rom 3:10). Nothing we do on our own can make us tall enough. **The Righteousness of God (Salvation) is found only through faith in Christ.**

1



Isaiah 53
Psalms 22
etc....(300
prophesies of
Christ, the
Redeemer)

Romans 3:22

²² even the righteousness of God, through **faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on **all who believe**.



Romans 3:23

For there is no difference;
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

7 Feet Tall = Righteous Requirement of Law = Glory of God

Don't measure yourself by judging others (works)

6'11 – FALLS SHORT

5'9 Tall

4'8 Tall

Jesus Christ Fulfills the Righteous Requirement
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Romans 3:24

Being
justified
freely by
His **grace**
through the
redemption
that is in
Christ
Jesus:



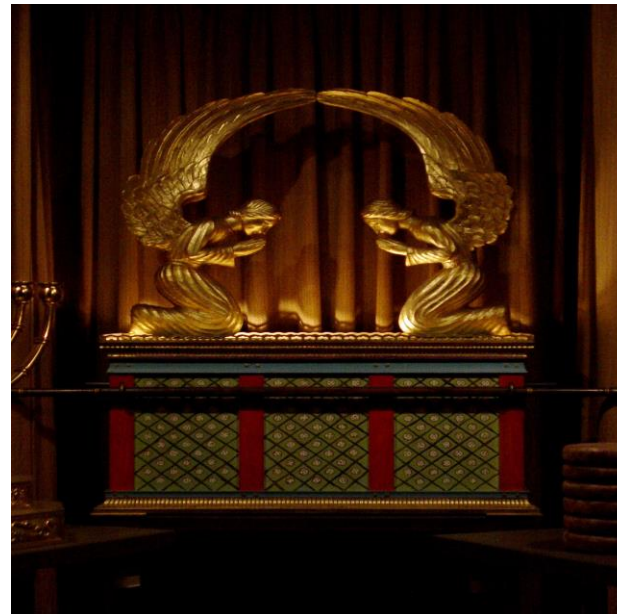
Ransom: The price paid to buy someone back (the price of redemption – Mark 10:45 – we had a debt that we could not pay, and we did not deserve it, but Jesus paid the ransom price for us through His blood)



Ransom: Referred to the price of a slave in Jesus' time

Romans 3:25

25 whom God set forth as a **propitiation** by His **blood**, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,



Propitiation means the **Mercy Seat** which was the lid of the Arc of the Covenant.

(blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat was the satisfactory sacrifice to appease God's Wrath)

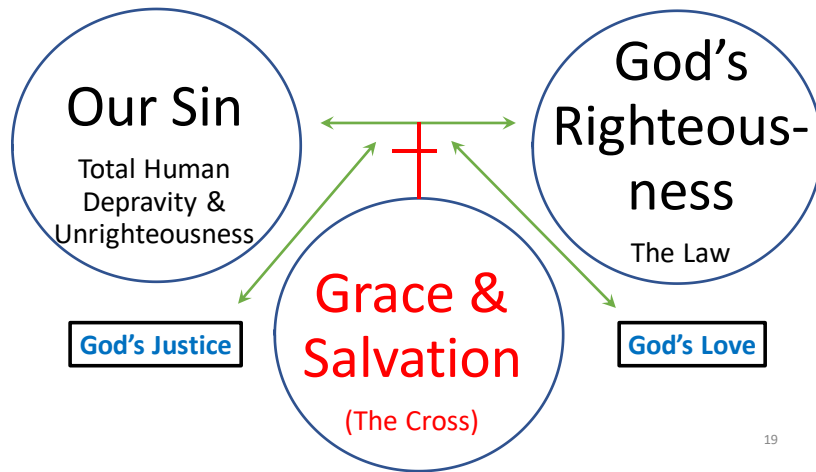
Romans 3:26

To declare, I say, at this time **His righteousness**: that he might be **just**, and the **justifier** of him which **believeth in Jesus**.



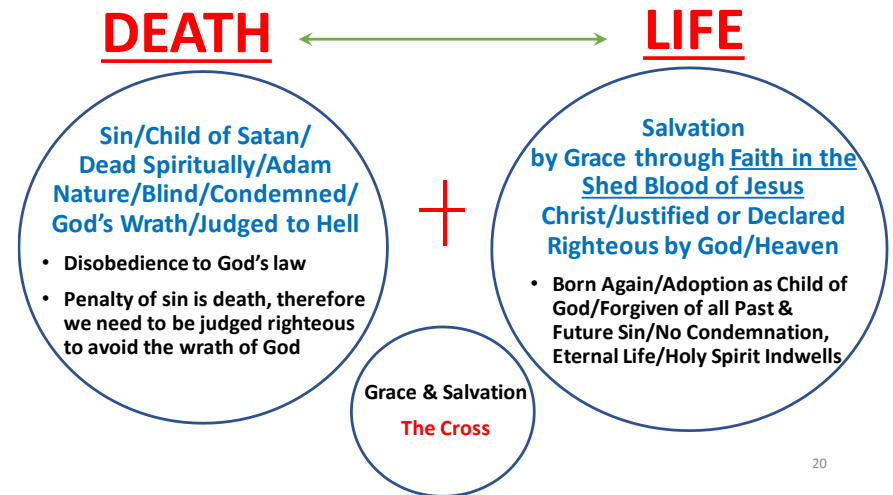
Salvation Summary

Theme of Romans: Grace of God Revealed



19

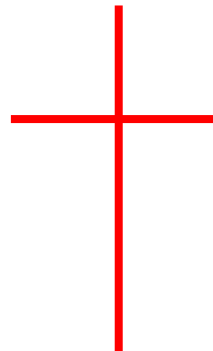
The Salvation of God



20

Sin, Judgement & Wrath

- Sin is disobedience to God's Law
- Law is impossible to keep
- Penalty of sin is death
- Therefore we need to be judged righteous (or right with God) to avoid God's wrath (hell)



Salvation (declared righteous)

- By Grace (undeserved) through FAITH in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, believing that He Died, was buried and was raised again after 3 days.
- All our sins are forgiven and we are "Justified" and given Eternal Life.

23

The Cross – Reveals God’s Righteousness

- Divine & above human wisdom – this is not philosophy
- Through the cross, God not only allowed, but planned before the foundation of the world that the most unjust act that men would ever commit, would reveal His divine righteousness through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son.
- **Because of His Justice**, all sin will be punished (eternal death - hell).
- **Because of His Grace**, all sin can be forgiven by placing faith in Christ
- Redemption of mankind through God’s love and grace is the greatest spiritual mystery... why, “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). We had a sin debt that we could not pay, and were lost and heading to destruction at judgement, but Christ paid it all out of love to save us.
- This kind of love and salvation makes a Christian’s primary purpose to Glorify God. A Christian should feel convicted and confess sin given the price God has paid for your salvation.

(true repentance involves Godly sorrow for our disobedience in light of what Christ did for us – if you don’t feel it, ask God to help search and break your heart, convict and show you the humility of a poor spirit).

Romans 3:21

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,”

- “But now” (in light of the work on the cross by Christ), the answer to the most important question of how we can be know we are right with God is revealed. **Salvation is from God, is unearned and not new.**
- Paul has diagnosed the fatal disease (sin) in Chapters 1 &2, now he provides the cure – Salvation is by Grace through Faith
- Marks the eschatological shift between this age and the age to come; contrast between the old covenant and the new covenant and the new era of salvation. (apart from the law since it was impossible to keep)
- The fact Paul mentions that this saving righteousness was also attested in the OT, is a type and shadow - the sacrificial system requiring blood looked forward to Christ, the OT prepared people for God’s righteousness, **“but now”** indicates the time has arrived.
- Seems to go deeper and implies that the New Covenant does not include the Old Covenant. See Parables of the New wineskins and unshrunk cloth in Mark 2:21-22

Romans 3:22

**“even the righteousness of God through
faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all
who believe.**

- The Remedy to man’s sin problem and the wrath of God is finally revealed...Salvation/Righteousness/Justification of God is through Faith in Jesus Christ.
- **God is Fair** – while all have sinned, all can be saved through faith in Christ, as long as one acknowledges they are a sinner and humbly accepts His offer of forgiveness of sin and justification through the finished atoning work of Christ on the cross.

Romans 3:23

“For there is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

- Adam theology – all humanity is impacted by Adam’s sin (Romans 5:12-14)
- “fall short” is present tense, indicating it’s constantly going on in humanity
- Only two groups of people – the guilty & the non-guilty, the saved and the lost, the Broad Way leading to death & the Narrow Way leading to life
- There are only two masters – God & Satan – everyone serves one of them
- You may be the most cultured, refined, active worker in church, or a murderer in jail, but **it makes no difference**, if you are unsaved, the wrath and judgement of God is resting upon you as described in Chapters 1 & 2.
- You are not guilty because you are a murderer/thief/etc, or saved because you are a moral, church going person, but you will be guilty and lost because you neglected the only hope of salvation, faith in the atoning blood of Christ.
 - i.e. In jails there is everyone from murderers to shoplifters, **all are guilty** and sentenced to jail, **there is no difference** (not a question of the degree of the sin, but a question of whether there was blood covering it or not – it’s a question of obedience to repent and believe).

Romans 3:24

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”

- **Justification** – to declare **legally righteous** (2 Cor. 5:21); God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin (death) while at the same time making a sinner righteous through Christ's substitutionary atoning sacrifice. (Rom. 5:9)
- **Salvation** includes **justification (we are saved at the moment we are justified)**, but also includes sanctification and glorification - Freedom from: past, present and future presence of sin in heaven.
- **Freely** – same word as John 15:25 – “**without a cause**”. It is without any cause that God justifies sinners, it's not only that it's free, but that there is no reason or grounds or anything good in us that merits God's favour. He justifies wholly on the redemptive work of Christ.
- **Grace** – an underserved **Gift** (unmerited favour), out of love and mercy (Rom. 5:8)
- **Redemption** – to deliver by paying a price (**Ransom**), we are slaves, sold to Satan under sin (Rom. 7:14) by the first Adam, sentenced to death (Rom. 6:23), but redeemed by the purchase price of the blood of the Redeemer

(**Ransom price was Jesus' life - Mark 10:45** – Jesus bought us back from the slavery of Satan).

- Greek word translated “**redemption**” described the process by which slaves could purchase their freedom.

Romans 3:25

“whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,”

- **Propitiation** – Mercy Seat (lid of the ark), the act of appeasing the wrath of God – **or Satisfaction for man’s sin** - the righteous sentence of the law is legally satisfied by mercy rather than judgement (like a pardon & expungement).
- **Forbearance** – temporary passing over sin & withholding of judgement. God could have destroyed the human race after Adam sinned, and every sin must be paid for by the sinner by either death or Christ, “but (the Lord) is patient toward you, not wishing any to perish but for all to come to repentance” 2 Peter 3:9 (also Rom. 2:4)
- **Atonement** – sacrifice for ongoing forgiveness of sin, it used to be on Day of Atonement by substitutionary animal sacrifices, but Jesus’ sacrifice was the final atonement for sin.

Romans 3:26

“...that He might be **just** and the **justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

- Jesus’ sacrifice at the cross demonstrates that God is both:
 - **Just** - all sin will be judged and punished (eternal death) according to God’s standard of righteousness – **HOLY**
 - **Justifier** - saving the sinner by the shedding of Christ’s blood, providing forgiveness of sin, in the ultimate plan of redemption, available through faith in Christ – **LOVING**
 - The cross is the ultimate demonstration of a Holy God’s justice and righteousness, providing redemption for the punishment of sin while not violating any attribute of His nature, but bringing glory to Himself. Faith in Christ’s work at the cross is all that is required for justification.
- **Justice is getting what we deserve, Grace is getting what we don’t deserve.**

Power in the Blood

- Lets stand back and ask: What does Paul mean by “Justification by Faith”? Faith in what? Faith in Whom?
- These scriptures lead us to much deeper understanding that **it must be faith in the CRUCIFIED Christ** (the sacrificial lamb of God John 1:29).
- Romans 3:21-26 reveals the Power in the precious Blood of the Lamb.
 - Blood Makes **Atonement** (Lev. 17:11; Gal 3:13; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2; Is. 53:6)
 - We were **Purchased** Through the Blood (Acts 20:28)
 - The Blood **Redeemed** Us (1 Peter 1:18-20; Rev. 5:9)
 - We are **Justified** by His Blood (Rom. 5:9)
 - We are **Sanctified** Through His Blood (Heb. 13:12)
 - His Blood **Cleanses** us From All Sin (1 John 1:7)
 - We have **Peace** Through His Blood (Col. 1:20)
 - We are able to **Conquer Satan** (Rev. 12:11)
- **Powerful Songs of these Truths:** Nothing But the Blood; Are You Washed in the Blood?; Oh, the Blood of Jesus; Power In the Blood ; Amazing Grace

Righteousness Principals

Romans 1:19-3:20 vs. 3:25-26

Judgement of Righteousness by the Law Romans 1:19-3:20

- Old Covenant
- Law as the stipulation
- For unbelieving Israel
- Old Testament sacrificial system obsolete & ineffective

Judgement of Righteousness by Faith Romans 3:25 26

- New Covenant
- Faith as the stipulation
- For All
- Christ's sacrifice is permanent and effective