

“A Gift of Innocence for the Condemned”

**Romans 3:21-24
November 29, 2020**

I. A Perfect Standing before God not Based on Performance (v. 21)

A. “But *now*...”

1. In the 1st century AD, in the face of the universal wickedness of mankind...
2. The righteousness of God was plainly manifested.

B. “the righteousness of God” – a perfect legal standing before the Lord:

1. As if one had nothing wrong.
2. As if one had done everything right.

C. This perfect legal standing was revealed *apart from law*, i.e., with no basis in human action or goodness.

II. A Perfect Standing from Christ For All Who Believe (v. 22)

A. A perfect legal standing “through faith in Jesus Christ”...

1. *Or*, as it can be correctly translated: “the *faithfulness* of Jesus Christ”
2. As in, this perfect legal standing made available for sinners is Christ’s own perfect standing.

Romans 5:18 - Therefore, as one trespass [Adam’s] led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness [Christ’s] leads to justification and life for all men.

B. “For all who believe” – Christ’s perfect standing is received by faith.

III. A Perfect Standing for Sinners that Could Only Have Come by Faith (vs. 23)

A. It must be by faith, for all have sinned!

B. No amount of good deeds can cancel a sinner’s debt or make them righteous.

IV. A Declared Perfect Standing that is God the Father’s Free Gift Purchased by Christ Jesus (vs. 24)

A. “By...*grace*” – as in, through *ill*-merited favor.

- B. “By *His* grace” – it was God the Father’s grace that initiated our salvation.
- C. Through God the Father’s incredible grace, believers are *justified*.
 - 1. Officially *declared* to be right in God’s sight, in every way.
 - a. As if we’ve never ever sinned.
 - b. As if we’ve always ever done good.
 - 2. This last-day vindication is pronounced *now*, ahead of judgment day, upon all who believe.
- D. This present and eternal justification is the *free gift* of God the Father to us:
 - 1. Given to us with nothing obligating the Father to give it.
 - 2. Given to us without any expectation of payment by us.
- E. The cost of this gift of redemption was paid by Jesus our Savior.

Application: *Let the formerly condemned rejoice!!! Let the formerly condemned show the same pardon they’ve been shown!!!*