

Romans 3:21-31

Pray that God would let you see, with fresh eyes, the glory of His salvation that He offers to His people, in His Son, Jesus.

Read Romans 3:21-31

Look Closer... Last time, we ended by wondering how humanity was going to earn the righteousness needed to stand before God. Paul now reveals that there is nothing human about the righteousness which stands alone as the answer to our sin. Rather, the answer to our problem, and the true meaning of our existence, is found in the "righteousness of God" (v. 21). The history of the world has been infiltrated by God's righteousness. Although Israel was faithless, God was faithful. Although the world was blind, God gave His people sight.

All of what Paul was writing about in chapters 1 and 2 come to their full meaning here, in chapter 3. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile; all have sinned; goodness cannot be found on the outside, but on the inside. That goodness, Paul now reveals, is called "faith". For God's righteousness is revealed "for all who believe".

But this is impossible! How could God's righteousness be made possible for humans, who have no righteousness of their own? For God's righteousness is free and mysterious, and we can't grasp it, nor understand it.

Paul says that redemption is found "*in Christ Jesus*" ('Christ' meaning *the messiah, or anointed one*). In Christ, is redemption - God's power to save. Then, in v. 25, Paul uses a greek word that is translated into english, *propitiation*, meaning, he has become the vehicle, or the way we become saved. However, perhaps a better way to translate the word is "mercy seat", for this is how it's translated in Hebrews 9:5. The mercy seat was the *place* of atonement in the Old Testament temple sacrifices.

Think about it... the word which Paul uses in 3:25 finds its roots in a word which represents the place of atonement. And just before that Paul says that *in Christ*, is God's redemption. Are you a Christian? Okay... remember to breathe, but you are *in Christ*. Right now, bound to him, one with him, united to Him, experiencing the peace and redemption *within Him*.

Jesus is not just the means of salvation, he is the location of salvation. And that is where you are.

Pray... "*In him* you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:11-14