

Continued from 1:17 3:26 - is a summary & proclamation - ch 4 of Paul amplifies this as the all-clear

THE ONLY WAY TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD.

Signal after storm - Safe to come out

Text: Romans 3:21-26

what does it think of you - what is His judgment on you?

INTRODUCTION: The first three chapters of Romans have shown that apart from the Gospel, there is nothing to be found in the world but sin and retribution. The world has been given over to sin and judgment.

THE

all troubles

The 3rd chapter of Romans shows that the wrong, etc., in the world is the direct result of an ill-relation to God--being wrong with God. The original perversion of man's relationship to God is followed by the perversion of all human relationships.

John fell & limps

Vs. 23- "Have sinned," Aorist tense refers to past. "Come short," is present tense refers to result. "And", in consequence of the past sin man is at present in a state of coming short. The word means, "suffering from want." It expresses a deficit, which consists either in remaining below the normal level, or in being behind others. It is descriptive of a state or condition.

man now lacks what he might now have had, deprived of glory both as a possession & a hope

"The glory of God--" Used of the aggregate of the Divine attributes and coincides with His self-revelation. They are coming short of the honor or approbation which God bestows.

The glory of God is the Divine likeness which man is intended to bear. God communicated to man when He created Him pure and happy. It was intended to shine more brightly in him as he rose from innocence to holiness. By sinning, man lost both what he had received of it and what he was yet to obtain. A dispossessed king, the crown has fallen from his head. A missing heir - Intro: - over ->

glory of God - the time and place in which God created man -

If the source of man's troubles are from being ill-related to God, then the most important question is: how can man be right with God? How to obtain a favorable judgment from God?

Now = in this present age
Vs. 21--Turning point in history has come. It is not a new knowledge, a new way, religion, philosophy or ethic which has been found, but God Himself has stepped out of His concealment to change the condition of man. God wants to communicate Himself to man, let man share His life, righteousness.

Justification: to acquit, regard as righteous, plead for the righteousness of, to treat the guilty as just. A paradox. Sinful men before the divine tribunal are acquitted for nothing by God's decree as judge.

God does not say that the sinner is no sinner, but that in spite of his sin He desires to have fellowship with the sinners and covers the sin. We share in God's righteousness, the one thing we lack. God treats us as just, puts us in right relation with Himself.

HOW?

Righteousness of God - not what God is, but what God does. - Righteousness = correct relation to God

vs 19, - no man can answer the charge

Are you a missing heir? [↓] ^{mind} ^{to sit a fair} ^{judgment}
If you thought you were — a large sum of money awaiting
you, saturday dust = would become excited =
you are — I created you to obtain His glory —

But thru sin, fell short, are falling short —

→ Greatest Fraud is Sin, Greatest Thief is Satan,
Biggest Con-man in
history! — Eve

Thru Sin man falls short of the ideal which I had
in mind when I created him —

It is required that man be found righteous before I; that at the Judgment,
he secure a favorable verdict — if the verdict is guilty — But ^{of w/3/19} ^{temporal}
The favorable Verdict is assured; by faith thru grace ^{in this present age}

Pity the man who
appears at ~~the~~ throne
Great white
demanding justice.

vs 23 — "all have sinned, all lack the glory of I"

It looks at all ~~as~~ our human goodness - charity, social work, etc - it counts ⁻²⁻ for nothing - because it treats symptoms - we are grieved that we

I. IT IS WITHOUT HUMAN MERIT OR EFFORT. have sinned against God but that this is the result
Vs. 21-- "without the law." religion conceived as a code of commandments.

vs 28
The absence of the article denotes "any law." There is not even one law that can impart righteousness. This law was the highest ever known, yet powerless.

James 2:10

Have you even lived up to your promise.
1. Because man cannot live up to the demands of law or conscience. No man does his best. Law reveals, but cannot empower.

Heathen = Treat out your heathen

I can never know for certain I'm "made the grade"

2. Because of the nature of sin.

a leper, is a leper, no matter what he does - feel poor, etc.

A state, condition, a state of opposition to God. Then, evil is always present with man in his deeds, even though they are good. Deeds are not separated from the character of the person. The good deeds are done by a person who is opposed to God. One's own righteousness therefore, is an illusion.

Ill- Being on a downward escalator, walking up. May take a step up, but are still in the general direction of down. Does not alter the general direction.

- concentrated his hope on himself rather than God

① - without the law = not directing our attention to God's demands, what we can do - we are paying more attention to our efforts than to God

Are not really convinced of our condemnation if we think we can merit Sal.

② - Not a life of good works & at end be pronounced righteous - the order is reversed - God pronounces a man righteous at the beginning of his course, not at end of it - this way, it can't be on the basis of works which he has not yet done - God alone is glorified - assures His acceptance in advance -

③ - vs 21 - repeated in vs 28 - Paul is cutting the ground from beneath the feet of those who say, "I always do the best I can - live a decent life - what more can God expect of me?" God doesn't expect anything but failure.

④ - why apart from law? - If God manifested His righteousness thru the law, our doing it, it would result in damnation. So in order to save, must manifest it apart from law -

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God dealt w/ us at the judgement thru law, now he lost = so we must bypass law -

for we have failed to keep it.

lead to wrath -

II. IT IS THROUGH FAITH

Concentrating on X looking away from self to Him.

Vs. 22--Faith puts man where God wants him, in place of dependence on God.

believing, obedience, submission

1. Having stated that we are saved by righteousness of God, Paul now reveals faith as the method whereby that righteousness is appropriated to the individual.

Not "By faith" But "in faith" Come by car, not by faith. Faith in car.

(1) The believer is not saved for his faith--that would be by works--but through his faith.

(2) Faith has no saving merit, but faith can obtain Him who has all merit.

2. Faith must, therefore, have a proper object, not general faith in God, but faith directed to Jesus Christ. *How does N.T. say 'saved by faith' - 'I came here by car, not faith' - Faith put me in the car - it is active!*

3. This is the universal way--"unto all". One way--"Baptists by water, Methodists by dry land."

4. "No difference" There are not two ways by which man can be justified.

Def. of Faith = believing obedience

The opposite of man's self-confident, self-despairing attempt to establish a proper relationship between himself and God by concentrating his hope on himself instead of directing it toward God upon himself.

Redemption contemplates our bondage to sin and is the provision of God to free us from that bondage. Propitiation contemplates our hostility to the wrath of God and is the provision of God to free us from that wrath. Satisfaction contemplates our indebtedness to God through the sacrifice of Jesus--this is the provision of God to free us from that indebtedness.

Faith - how we receive it, but what makes it available? Grace

III. IT IS BY GRACE*

Vs. 24-

By grace, Through the Redemption = Grace manifested, acted, It's the death of Jesus

"freely," signifies that we contribute nothing--

"by grace," signifies that the whole charge is freely supplied by God. Contributes everything

Ill- Santa--Somebody pays for it.

What does God supply--the provisions of grace.

Grace is that character that causes Him to pay for our release, redemption - X's blood is the price - Grace makes us pay the price.

1. Redemption--God removes that which separates man from Himself. Cost of His Son

"Buy back a slave or captive, making him free by payment of a ransom.

This means that man was in the power of sin, the grip, the dominion of sin, and that Jesus alone can free him from it.

Our justification depends on the fact that God has intervened to emancipate His people from bondage to sin.

The blood of Christ was the channel through which God's grace saved us. His life was the ransom, His blood the price.

2. Propitiation--A means of turning away the wrath of God. The mercy-seat that covered the ark--where blood was shed, where God met man in mercy.

"Set forth--" Placed him before the eyes of all, once and for all, never to be repeated.

designed, purpose

Redemption contemplates our bondage to sin and is the provision of grace to release us from that bondage. Propitiation contemplates our liability to the wrath of God and is the provision of grace whereby we may be freed from that wrath.

→ The grace of God operates through the sacrifice of Jesus--this is why He must be the object of our faith.

X was God's manner of dealing w/ sin