

God Sets Things Right

Sunday School Lesson – Lesson 7 July 19, 2026

Bible Basis: Romans 3:21–31 — “The Righteousness of God Revealed”**

Bible Truth: There is hope that faith in Jesus Christ can save those who continue in sin.

Memory Verse: *²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (Romans 3:22-24)*

Lesson Aim

To help students understand how God provides righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from the works of the law, and why this truth is central to the gospel.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Old Testament anticipated Jesus — righteousness was always God’s plan.
2. Faith is not a work — it is trust in the finished work of Christ.
3. Sin levels the ground; grace lifts us up.
4. Grace is free to us because it was costly to Christ.
5. The cross shows God is both **just** and the **justifier**.
6. Grace destroys pride and produces humility.
7. The gospel unites — it does not divide.

Background Context:

- Romans 1-3 builds a courtroom scene:
- Romans 1: Gentiles are guilty
- Romans 2: Jews are guilty
- Romans 3: Everyone is guilty – and Paul delivers the final verdict in Romans 3:9-20

I. INTRODUCTION — THE TURNING POINT OF ROMANS

Romans 3:9–20 - Paul proves that all humanity—Jew and Gentile alike—is guilty under sin, unable to achieve righteousness through the law, and completely dependent on God’s grace for salvation.

Romans 3:21–31 is the **heart of Paul’s gospel message**. After proving that all humanity is guilty Paul now reveals **God’s solution**:

👉 Righteousness is not earned — it is given. 👉 Salvation is not achieved — it is received. 👉 Justification is not by works — it is by grace through faith.

This passage is the bridge from **human sinfulness** to **God's salvation**.

The Lesson:

I The Announcement (Romans 3:21-22)

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

What's Happening Here?

1. Righteousness Apart from the Law (v. 21)

Paul says a righteousness “without the law” has been revealed. This means:

- Not based on human performance
- Not dependent on rituals or religious identity
- Not earned through moral behavior

Yet the **Law and the Prophets** pointed to this righteousness all along.

Teaching Point: The Old Testament anticipated Jesus — righteousness was always God's plan.

2. Righteousness Through Faith in Christ (v. 22)

*²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all **[f]**and on all who believe. For there is no difference;*

This righteousness comes “**by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.**”

Key truths:

- Faith is the doorway
- Christ is the source
- All who believe receive it
- There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile

Teaching Point: Faith is not a work — it is trust in the finished work of Christ.

II The Sacrifice (vv. 23-26)

²³*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

What's Happening Here?

3. Universal Need for Salvation (v. 23)

Paul states the universal condition:

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

This means:

- Everyone is guilty
- Everyone is broken
- Everyone falls short
- Everyone needs grace

Teaching Point: Sin levels the ground; grace lifts us up.

4. Justified Freely by Grace (v. 24)

²⁴*being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

Justification means God declares us righteous. Freely means we didn't earn it. Grace means it's undeserved. Redemption means Jesus paid the price.

Grace is free to us because it was costly to Christ.”

We are justified:

- **Freely** — without cost to us
- **By His grace** — His undeserved kindness
- **Through redemption** — Christ paid the price

Teaching Point: Grace is free to us because it was costly to Christ.

5. Christ as the Propitiation (v. 25) (pro-pi-she-AY-shun)

²⁵*whom God set forth as a propitiation (pro-pi-she-AY-shun) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*

- **Propitiation** = the sacrifice that satisfies God's righteous judgment.
- **Forbearance** - mercy

God set forth Jesus:

- As the atoning sacrifice
- To demonstrate His righteousness
- To show His patience with past sins
- To reveal His justice and mercy

Teaching Point: The cross shows God is both **just** and the **justifier**.

6. Just and Justifier (v. 26)

²⁶*to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

1. "To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness"

God needed to show His righteousness publicly.

Why?

Because for centuries, God had been passing over sins (showing patience, delaying judgment). Someone might ask:

- "If God is holy, why hasn't He punished sin yet?"

The cross answers that question.

The cross is God's public declaration:

"I do not ignore sin. I judge it fully."

2. "That He might be just..."

God must remain just — meaning:

- He must punish sin.
- He cannot pretend sin doesn't matter.

- He cannot simply “forgive” without a payment.

If God forgave sin without judgment, He would not be just.

So Jesus becomes the substitute.

The cross proves God’s justice is intact.

3. “...and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Here’s the beauty:

God doesn’t just judge sin — He justifies sinners.

He declares guilty people righteous.

How?

By placing their punishment on Jesus.

So God remains:

- Just — because sin is punished
- The Justifier — because He saves the sinner who believes

Teaching Point: The cross is the only place where justice and mercy meet perfectly.

III The One God For All (vv. 27-31)

²⁷*Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.*

²⁸*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.*

What’s Happening Here?

7. Boasting Removed (v. 27–28)

Since salvation is by faith, not works:

- No one can boast
- No one can claim superiority
- No one can take credit

Teaching Point: Grace destroys pride and produces humility.

8. One God, One Way (v. 29–30)

²⁹*Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith*

What's Happening Here?

God justifies:

- Jews by faith
- Gentiles by faith

There is **one God** and **one gospel**.

Teaching Point: The gospel unites — it does not divide.

8. Faith Establishes the Law (v. 31)

³¹*Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.*

What's Happening Here?

“Paul closes by saying faith doesn’t destroy the law — it establishes it. The law reveals our sin. Faith receives the righteousness the law could never give.

Faith does not cancel the law — it fulfills its purpose.

The law shows our need. Faith receives the solution.

Teaching Point: The law reveals sin; faith receives righteousness.

Take away: We are sinners. Christ is Savior. Grace is free. Faith is the doorway. God gets the glory.

Romans 3:21–31 is the heartbeat of the gospel. If this teaching blessed you, go ahead and like, subscribe, and share. And join me next time as we continue walking through the book of Romans.”

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that righteousness is “apart from the law”?
2. Why is faith the only way to receive God’s righteousness?
3. How does Romans 3:23 show our universal need for grace?

4. What does “justified freely by His grace” teach us about salvation?
5. How does Jesus serve as our propitiation?
6. Why does salvation by faith eliminate boasting?
7. How does faith “establish” the law instead of destroying it?

IV. LIFE APPLICATION

- We cannot earn God’s approval — we receive it through Christ.
- We must stop trying to “perform” for righteousness and rest in grace.
- We should walk in humility, knowing salvation is a gift.
- We must share this message with others who feel unworthy or hopeless.
- We should live with gratitude, knowing Christ paid the full price.

Romans 3:21–31 — Teacher’s Answer Key

1. What does it mean that righteousness is “apart from the law”?

It means righteousness does not come from human effort, performance, or obedience to the law. It is given by God, not earned by works.

2. Why is faith the only way to receive God’s righteousness?

Because faith trusts in Christ’s finished work rather than our own. Works cannot justify us; only believing in Jesus opens the door to God’s gift of righteousness.

3. How does Romans 3:23 show our universal need for grace?

“All have sinned” means everyone is guilty. “Come short of the glory of God” means everyone fails to meet God’s standard. Therefore, everyone needs grace equally.

4. What does “justified freely by His grace” teach us about salvation?

Justification is a gift. It costs us nothing but cost Christ everything. We are declared righteous because of God’s kindness, not our merit.

5. How does Jesus serve as our propitiation?

He is the sacrifice that satisfies God’s righteous judgment. His blood covers sin, removes wrath, and restores fellowship between God and humanity.

6. Why does salvation by faith eliminate boasting?

Because no one can claim they earned salvation. Faith points to Christ’s work, not ours. Grace leaves no room for pride — only gratitude.

7. How does faith “establish” the law instead of destroying it?

Faith fulfills the law’s purpose. The law reveals sin; faith receives the righteousness the law could never provide. Faith confirms the law’s role in pointing us to Christ.

Bonus Application Answers

A. We stop trying to earn God’s approval and rest in Christ’s finished work. **B.** We walk in humility because salvation is a gift, not an achievement. **C.** We share the gospel because others need the same grace we received. **D.** We live with gratitude, knowing Christ paid the full price for our redemption.