

IV. Romans 3:21-5:11 – Justification: Declared Legally Right before God

A. Romans 3:21-31 – Paul explained how God justifies sinners

1. Romans 3:21 – Justification is granted apart from personal _____ .
 - a. Romans 3:21a – *But now...* After proving that all people are guilty sinners, Paul proceeded to give _____ to the hopeless.
 - b. Romans 3:21b – *...apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested...* God has revealed a _____ to declare undeserving, godless people legally righteous before His eyes entirely apart from the Law. This is called justification.
 - 1) God declares unworthy people to be lawfully righteous in His sight totally apart from their _____ works.
 - 2) God justifies sinners _____ from them doing anything to deserve it.
 - c. Romans 3:21c – *...being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets...* The Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets) predicted and confirmed that unworthy people would in the future be granted a way to be declared _____ with God. In Romans chapter 4, Paul cited two Old Testament witnesses, Abraham and David, as proof of this fact.
2. Romans 3:22-23 – Justification is provided through _____.
 - a. Romans 3:22a – *...even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ...* God, the Judge, justifies. This means those who personally _____ in Christ are legally declared righteous. Justification means to be declared righteous by God, to be reckoned as blameless and without blemish.
 - b. Romans 3:22b – *...for all those who believe...* This legal action of declaring a person righteous is done, without exception, for each and every sinner who _____ in Christ.
 - c. Romans 3:22c – *...For there is no distinction...* Since all people are equally sinful, every person in the world equally needs God to _____ him or her righteous.
 - d. Romans 3:23a – What one thing do all humans have in common? We are not alike in education, wealth or social status, but we *all have sinned*. Since we have all _____ sinned, we all equally need God, the Judge of the universe, to graciously declare us legally righteous before His eyes.
 - e. Romans 3:23b – Likewise, we all *fall short of the glory of God*. Not one person has ever measured up to God's perfect _____ of righteous.
3. Romans 3:24 – Justification by faith comes through _____. Grace is undeserved favor.
 - a. Romans 3:24a – *...being justified as a gift...* Paul declared justification to be a _____. Totally free of charge, God declares all who believe in Christ to be lawfully right with Him.
 - b. Romans 3:24b – *...by His grace...* Justification is never based on merit; it only comes by grace. It is because of God's completely undeserved, loving _____ that He declares all who believe in Christ to be legally right with Himself.

4. Romans 3:24 – Justification by faith is possible because the _____ for our redemption was paid in full.
- Romans 3:24c – *...through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...* God can declare us to be right with Him because the price for our redemption was _____ in full by Jesus Christ, through His substitutionary sacrificial death on Calvary.
 - Romans 3:24d – *...the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...* Redemption speaks of the fact that, as an essential part of our justification, we needed to be purchased from the _____ market of sin. We were slaves, in bondage to sin, but Christ’s sacrifice provided the purchase price for our freedom.
5. Romans 3:25 – Justification by faith comes through propitiation. Propitiation is an offering for sin that fully satisfies God’s wrath. All God’s righteous requirements for our justification were fulfilled in the _____ of Christ.
- Romans 3:25a – *...whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith...* Scripture says that *the soul who sins will _____*. Ezekiel 18:4
 - Christ’s death on the cross was a _____ validation that the death penalty required for sin was fully paid for all people, once and for all. John 19:30, Romans 6:10, Hebrews 9:25-29
 - It was important for Christ to be officially executed (crucified) through a legal process in clear _____ of many witnesses, so that when God now declares someone righteous, His justice is not questioned.
 - God’s _____ towards sinful humanity was pacified (propitiated) when the innocent Lord Jesus died on the cross in the place of all sinners. 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 2:2
 - Romans 3:25b – *This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.* Our justification is now based on the fact that God’s requirements were _____ met through Christ’s sacrificial death in our place. Romans 4:25, Hebrews 9:28
 - Jesus’ public execution explained God’s patience in not destroying all mankind, from _____ to the cross, for their sins. Acts 17:30-31, Hebrews 9:15
 - In His infinite foreknowledge, God _____ Christ would one day provide a peacemaking sacrifice. Genesis 3:15, 1 Peter 1:19-20, Revelation 13:8
6. Romans 3:26 – Justification by faith comes by a perfectly _____ means.
- Romans 3:26a – *...for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time so that He would be just...* Jesus’ public execution is proof that God is just when He now declares sinners to be righteous and releases them from the death penalty. The death _____ for sin required by the Law was paid in full by Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 3:26b – *... and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.* Christ’s substitutionary death allows God to justify every individual sinner who _____ in Christ. Justification releases the sinner from ever suffering eternal death. Hebrews 9:12-14

7. Romans 3:27 – Justification by faith removes all _____.
 - a. Romans 3:27a – *Where is boasting? It is excluded.* Since Christ did all the work for our justification, we have nothing to _____ about. Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 2:9
 - b. Romans 3:27b – *By what kind of law? Of works?* No. A principle of _____ would only encourage arrogance. Our works do not justify us.
 - c. Romans 3:27c – *No, but by a law of faith.* All boasting is removed by a principle of faith. Since faith is the ultimate non-work issue, no one can _____ that he or she made any contribution to his or her justification. Romans 4:5
8. Romans 3:28 – Justification by faith is independent of the _____. Justification by faith cancels out justification by means of the Law.
 - a. Romans 3:28a – Paul said, “*For we _____ that a man is justified by faith.*” Do you likewise uphold the truth that justification is by faith alone in Christ alone?
 - b. Romans 3:28b – Paul added, “*For we maintain that a man is justified ...apart from works of the Law.*” Paul firmly held the position that a person is justified independently of, and distinctly apart from, _____ the good deeds found in observing the Law. Do you likewise firmly hold this truth? Galatians 2:16
9. Romans 3:29-30 – Justification by faith is the _____ for all people. God plays no favorites. Jews and non-Jews alike are all declared right with God in the same way.
 - a. Romans 3:29 – *Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also...* Since humans, Jew and Gentile alike, all have the one same true _____, we must all declared right with Him in the very same way.
 - b. Romans 3:30 – *...since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.* If either a Jew or a Gentile _____ in Christ, he or she is instantly declared righteous by the same true God.
10. Romans 3:31 – Justification by faith does not undermine the _____.
 - a. Romans 3:31b – *Do we then nullify the Law through faith?* In other words, if we are made right with God by faith, it sounds like we are saying the Law is useless. But Paul said, “*May it _____ be!*” Justification by faith does not invalidate the Law.
 - b. Romans 3:31c – *On the contrary, we establish the Law.* When we teach justification by faith in Christ’s substitutionary death, we actually confirm the authority of the Law since we agree with the Law that the wages for sin is _____. Romans 6:23

B. Romans 4:1-25 – Old Testament examples of justification by faith

1. Romans 4:1-5 – Abraham was declared righteous _____ God by faith, without works.
 - a. Romans 4:1 – *What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?* Paul will show that Abraham discovered that a man is declared right with God by faith, apart from any kind of good _____.