

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD!

ROMANS

Rom. 3:21-26

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Paul's Gospel and the Righteousness of God: Rom. 3:21-26

- 1. This passage is just as dispensational and practical as it is positional.**
- 2. Practical because it gives us the pattern of blessing: In blessing sinners/enemies God displays His Glory.**
 - God blessing us is not an end in itself. It is a means to the end of glorifying Himself.
- 3. Dispensational because here Paul explains why what Peter and the 12 preached in Acts (God's Righteousness in destroying His enemies) never happened (17:30-31 vs. Rom. 3:21-26).**
 - God began to display His Righteousness in saving His enemies through Paul.
 - This explains why Paul's Apostleship is unique and distinct.
 - This explains why only Paul could have revealed this BUT NOW Righteousness of God.
- 4. In Romans 2 Paul picks up with the words of Stephen (Acts 7:51-53).**
 - a. Stiff-necked/hard-hearted.
 - b. Uncircumcised in heart/their circumcision has become uncircumcision.
 - b. Not kept the Law/Broken the Law.

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5. The Jews joined arms with the Gentiles, all alike under sin (Rom. 3:9), in unbelief (Rom. 11:32) as ungodly sinners with enemy/rebel status before God (Rom. 3:10-20)
--And Paul was their leader! (Acts. 7; 8:3; 9:1-2; 22:3-4; 26:9-11; Gal. 1:13;)
6. It is while Paul was still in this sinner/enemy status that God saved him and, therefore, he is the only one qualified to reveal the BUT NOW Righteousness of God whereby God declares .
--Paul is the pattern. (1 Tim. 1:12-17)
7. Paul is the Pattern for God saving His enemies rather than destroying them (1 Tim. 1:15-16)
 - a. How was Paul saved? While he was chief sinner, while he was still on sinner/enemy status before God.
 - b. Why was Paul saved? So God could show the Riches of His Grace, Mercy and Longsuffering.

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- 8. Paul's example gives the fullest explanation of the saying: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**
 - a. Jesus in His earthly ministry and ministry of Peter and the 12 preached this saying with regard to sinners who were God's friends through the promises and covenants to Israel's fathers.**
 - b. Paul expanded this saying to sinners when they were God's enemies.**
- 9. Paul was the first one to whom God showed the Riches of His Grace, and it is in this way that God has been saving everyone since Paul.**

—God makes Paul the Hebrew (representative of the Jews) and Paul the Roman (representative of the Gentiles) the chief sinner residing in enemy status before God and makes him the pattern for everyone else today.
- 10. The Riches of His Grace, Mercy and Longsuffering is what honors and glorifies God: the only King to whom belongs the eternal, immortal, invisible wisdom, honor and glory. (1 Tim. 1:17)**

--and this brings us back to Rom. 2.

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11. In Romans 2, it is as though Paul thinks back on the stoning of Stephen. BUT NOW he is not looking against Stephen in hatred but has turned and is looking with Stephen at the Risen Lord who saved him, the chief of sinners, the leader of the enemies of God.

--It is as though Paul is echoing Stephen's final words to those who were rejecting his apostleship because in doing that, they were continuing in rebelling against God.

--To reject Paul and his apostleship would be to reject God's answer to Stephen's prayer, and in doing that they remained under Stephen's curse.

12. God's answer to Stephen's prayer was the raising up of the Apostle Paul, making him the steward of the Dispensation of the Grace of God:

- a. Rather than returning in wrath and judgment to destroy His enemies, especially the Gentiles, in accord with the preaching of the 12, He returned in grace and peace to save and bless His enemies, esp. the Gentiles, in accord with the preaching of Paul.
- b. Rather than blessing the world with Israel and through her RISE in accord with her Prophetic Program, He is now blessing the world apart from Israel and through her FALL in accord with the Mystery Program.