



BOLD TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY

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**You are
Saved:**

- **BY GRACE**
- **THROUGH
FAITH**
- **UNTO LIFE
ETERNAL**

**In
CHRIST**
(Eph. 2:5-9)

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THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD: ROMANS

While we are eternally grateful to the Reformers for the truth they recovered from God's Word, especially that of justification by grace through faith alone, it would be a mistake to think that they had recovered all the truth resident in His Word. For Luther, Romans is "the heart of the gospel, truly the most important piece in the New Testament." Because of this phenomenal return to Pauline truth with regard to justification, we tend to give the Reformers a pass when it comes to Romans, or at least the first three chapters. That's the part everyone agrees they got right, right?

Or did they? It is well to remember that Luther, Calvin and their followers have, for the most part, willfully rejected in unbelief the unique and distinct apostleship of Paul. Therefore, those who rightly-divide the Scriptures in the light of Paul's distinct apostleship are correct to ask (without diminishing the value of the truth that the Reformers did recover one bit!) if they recovered *all* of the truth God wants to convey to us in Romans? Are there things in Romans they missed because of their rejection of Paul's distinct apostleship?

This study will not be "traditional" if by that word we mean the traditions put forth by historic "Christianity," and the so called "church fathers," whom she values so highly, yet who have always rejected God's Truth about Paul's distinct apostleship, going all the way back to the days of Paul himself (2 Tim. 1:15). If, however, by "traditional" we mean God's Truth for today as put forth by the teachings of the Apostle Paul, then this is a "traditional" Bible study in the truest sense of the word.

**Therefore, stand fast, brethren, which ye have been taught whether by word (*Paul's preaching*) or by our epistle (*Paul's letters*)...Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and not after the TRADITION which you received of us (*Paul*).
(2 Thess. 2:15 with 3:6; italics mine).**

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ROMANS

ROM. 1:1-2

PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, which He promised afore by His prophets in the Holy Scriptures ...

Too often, we skim over the first verses in Romans because we think we know who Paul is, and what he is going to say. But for this study, we are going to set aside all such assumptions and begin by asking what every 1st century hearer, especially the Jews, would have asked: **WHO IN THE WORLD IS PAUL? AND WHERE IN THE WORLD DID HE COME FROM?** Remember, God already had 12 perfectly good apostles, Peter and the Twelve. Why did He need to raise up another apostle, the Apostle Paul?

Some answer this question by claiming that the 11 ran ahead of God in early Acts and mistakenly appointed Mathias as Judas' replacement when God had intended to replace him with Paul. With God's plan A subverted by the 12, God had to go to plan B and make Paul one of the 12 by making him the 13th. What nonsense! According to the plain statements of Scripture, Paul **COULD NOT** have been one of the Twelve. He didn't qualify. In order to be one of the 12, you had to have been with Jesus in His earthly ministry **beginning from the baptism of John unto that same day He was taken up from us** (Acts. 1:22). Paul wasn't a companion with Christ during that time. Therefore Paul wasn't qualified to be one of the 12, let alone the 13th apostle!!

Others who recognize this go a different route in trying to explain why God needed to raise up the Apostle Paul. They suggest that it was because the 12 were biased and preju-

diced Jews, who, in rebellion against God, refused to take His Word out to the Gentiles. So, God had to go to plan B and raise up Paul to do among the Gentiles what the 12 refused to do. This explanation of Paul's Apostleship is just as absurd as the previous one and doesn't stand the test of Scripture either. According to the Bible, Peter and the 12 were filled/controlled with the Holy Spirit and in constant prayer, continually doing the Lord's work (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 6:3; etc.). No, the 12 were not rebelling against God! They were obeying Him in every detail.

WHY PAUL?

So we return to our original question: Why did God create a new apostleship of Grace and appoint a new apostle, the Apostle Paul, when He already had 12 perfectly good, able-bodied apostles available for His use? This is really the million dollar, no, the trillion dollar question of Christianity. How you answer it determines everything!

First, we need to remember who Paul was. Our first glimpse of him is in Acts 7 at the stoning of Stephen, a follower of Jesus Christ. We are told there that Paul had fully consented to Stephen's death and was the leader of the persecution of the rest of Christ's followers (Acts. 8:1-4; 9:5). This made him the lead persecutor of Christ and, therefore, the lead enemy of God! And it was while he was an ungodly sinner on enemy status before God that God saved him.

Let's be as clear as possible. In order to qualify for an apostleship among the 12, you needed to be a FRIEND of Christ. But to fill the new apostleship God gave to Paul, you needed to be an ENEMY of Christ! So what most Bible teachers refuse to accept is that not only was Paul not qualified to fill an apostleship in the 12, none of the 12 were qualified to fill the apostleship of Paul!

The Twelve (with Mathias as Judas' replacement) had companied (been friends) with Jesus for the roughly three years of His ministry on earth. Remember how they followed Him? Andrew had been a follower of John the Baptist, who then followed Jesus. Next, he brought his brother, Simon (the Apostle Peter), saying, **We have found the Messiah.** Then Philip joined them and he brought Nathaniel, saying, **We have found Him whom Moses in the Law and Prophets did write ... leading to this proclamation: Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel** (Jn. 1:40-50). Simon the Zealot had zeal for God's honor and followed Jesus. They were already "friends" of God. They believed His Word to Israel and were watching for the Coming One promised in it. In the calling of the 12, Jesus was calling His FRIENDS!

Jesus said: **And I say unto you My FRIENDS, be not afraid of them that kill the body** (Lk. 12:4) ... and John the Baptist said, **He that has the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice** (John. 3:29) ... and the Apostle John said: **Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends** (Jn. 11:11). And all of this is in accord with the Abrahamic Covenant in which God promised to **bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee** (Gen. 12:3). In other words, I will bless My friends and curse My enemies.

Judas is the exception that proves the

rule. He betrayed the Lord, leading to Christ's persecution as the Nation of Israel joined with the Gentile nations in putting their Creator, Lord and King to death. Therefore, he was cursed and fell to his death (Acts 1:15-20)!

Now, if Paul, the lead persecutor of Christ and His followers, was like any of the 12, he would have been like Judas not the rest of the 11! The Risen Lord put it this way: **Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me** (Acts 9:4)? Why was Judas cursed unto death while Saul/Paul was blessed unto eternal life? This is another one of those million dollar questions that, depending on how you answer, will determine everything!

Let's hear Paul's answer in his own words:

I (Paul) ... who was before a blasphemer and a persecutor and injurious: but I (Paul) obtained mercy ... And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus ... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I (Paul) am CHIEF. Howbeit for this cause I (Paul) obtained mercy, that in me (Paul) FIRST Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a PATTERN to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting (1 Tim. 1:12-16, emphasis mine).

Saul/Paul led the persecution against Christ and His followers. He was the CHIEF sinner, the enemy of God. Based on the Abrahamic Covenant, the same fate that befell Judas should have befallen Paul as well. He should have been cursed and destroyed. But instead of doing that, God operated out of the RICHES OF HIS GRACE to save and bless Paul! Wow! In doing this, He made Paul the starting point of a new PATTERN, the first in a

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long line of people saved while they were yet ungodly sinners on enemy status before God, who believed in the Person and Work of Christ on the Cross.

WHAT GOD IS DOING TODAY

Today, under Paul's Apostleship, all people—Jew and Gentile alike—have been gathered together in unbelief (Rom. 11:32), under Sin (Rom. 3:9), and on enemy status before God (Rom. 5:10). Today, with the nation of Israel cast away (temporarily) and God's Prophetic Program put on hold, God is now saving His enemies because He has no friends!

In accord with Israel's Prophetic Program, Peter and the 12 preached that the Risen Christ was about to return in wrath and judgment to save His friends (the believing remnant) and destroy His enemies in accord with the Abrahamic Covenant (Acts 2-3). But that never happened! Instead, the Risen Christ set aside His plan for National Israel and gathered all people—Jew and Gentile alike—together in unbelief, under sin, on enemy status before God, raised up the Apostle Paul and sent him out to extend His Grace and Peace to the world—Jew and Gentile alike—providing salvation to all who believed.

Before Paul, God was operating in accord with His Earthly Purpose to re-establish His glory on earth through the Nation of Israel in accord with His Prophetic Program as revealed since the world began in the Old Testament, the Gospels and the ministry of Peter and the 12 (Lk. 1:68-79; Acts 2-3). With Paul, however, God began a new Purpose through which He would re-establish His glory in the heavenlies through the Body of Christ in accord with His Mystery Program, which had been kept secret since the world began but is now made known by the Spirit through Paul's

Epistles.

This is the God-given, biblically correct answer to why God needed to raise up another apostle, the Apostle Paul. Today God is not operating in accord with Israel and her covenants, not even the Abrahamic Covenant, whereby He blesses His friends and curses His enemies. Today He has no friends and is saving and blessing His enemies! There is not enough grace in the Abrahamic Covenant to do what God is doing today. Today He is dispensing the Super-Abounding Riches of His Grace (1 Tim. 1:14; Eph. 2:7).

God took Paul, the chief sinner and His worst enemy (1 Tim. 1:12-17), saved and blessed him and made him the Pattern of salvation for all who believed thereafter—by Faith in the Person and Work of Christ on the Cross.

Now that we know who Paul is and the distinctiveness of His Apostleship, let's work our way through this passage.

Paul, A Called Apostle (1:1)

Paul is a "called" apostle, an apostle (or sent one) whom God called or appointed. Paul is divinely appointed as the sent one from God in the service of Jesus Christ.

Paul, A Separated Apostle (1:1)

Next, Paul says God "separated" him or set him apart in his apostolic service unto God's Good News (Gospel) for the world. Now, if something is "separated," we immediately wonder, "Separated from what?" There are only 2 ways to know the answer to this question. The writer could state explicitly what he was separated from as Paul does in Gal. 1:15: "**God separated me from my mother's womb.**" There you have it.

But if the writer doesn't say explicitly what he was separated from, we must deter-

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mine it from the context. We see something similar in Acts 13. There Luke explains in v.1 that Paul was among the “**prophets and teachers**” in the church at Antioch and in v.2 he writes: “**The Holy Spirit said, Separate (unto) Me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work whereunto I have called them.**” While Luke doesn’t explicitly say what Barnabas and Saul were separated from in v.2, the context demands that they were separated from the other “**prophets and teachers**” mentioned in v. 1.

The same holds true for our verse here. The verse begins describing Paul as a called Apostle of God in the service of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the context demands that Paul was separated from all others who were called Apostles in the service of Jesus Christ, which at that time would have been Peter and the 12. If he meant anything else, he would have stated it explicitly as he did in Gal. 1:15. So just as Barnabas and Saul were separated from the other apostles and prophets unto the Holy Spirit in Acts 13:1-2, here Paul is separated from the other Apostles serving Christ unto the Gospel of God in Rom. 1:1.

What Gospel Of God? (1:2-4)

Next, we learn that God separated him unto the Gospel of God, **which He had promised before by His holy prophets in the Scriptures.** Now, if we stopped reading here, we might mistakenly assume that Paul was continuing the Good News of God that had been revealed through Israel’s prophets in the Old Testament, Gospels and ministry of the 12.

But we must not stop reading here. This Good News of God that the prophets had written is immediately limited to the Good News of His Son, Jesus Christ our

Lord, which is further limited to two specific topics: 1. The Good News of His Incarnation (**Jesus Christ entered into the line of David according to the flesh** in fulfillment of Israel’s Davidic Covenant). 2. The Good News of His Resurrection **from the dead when He was declared the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness.**

Sometimes it is just as important to notice what is NOT in a passage of Scripture as it is to notice what is in it. Typically, when Paul talks about His Gospel it centers on the Good News of the Death/Cross of Christ. But notice that here Paul mentions the Incarnation and the Resurrection of Christ but **SKIPS OVER HIS DEATH!**

Of course, if there was a resurrection there must have been a death. But the point is that while Paul *directly* mentions the Incarnation and Resurrection of Christ, He does not *directly* mention the Death/Cross of Christ here. Even the prepositional phrase **from the dead** in the underlying Greek means “out from among the dead” in general not Christ’s death in specific. For anyone who knows the centrality of the Death/Cross of Christ in his Gospel, this should be **SHOCKING!** But it gets even more shocking when we notice that Paul holds off mentioning the Death/Cross of Christ *directly* for more than four chapters, 122 long verses, into this Handbook of the Gospel of our Salvation, not mentioning it *directly* until Rom. 5:6! How can this be?

We will see why he does this next time.

To Hear More, click here:
[Romans 1:1-7](#)

Paul and the Righteousness of God

There is no more important topic in all the world than the Righteousness of God. If we understand how God reveals His Righteousness in His Prophetic Program with the Nation of Israel in the past and in the future, and how He is now revealing it in His Mystery Program with the Body of Christ, the door of God's dealings with fallen humanity will swing open, letting in the light of His Word.

ALL ARE SINNERS AND ENEMIES BEFORE GOD

The Righteousness of God comes into special focus when we remember that we by nature are completely unrighteous sinners who are in rebellion against God and His Word.

We have before proved both Jews and Gentiles (*all of humanity*), that they are ALL under sin; as it is written, There is none righteous, no not one ... there is none that seeks after God ... there is none that does good, no, NOT ONE! ... that all the world may become guilty before God ... no flesh shall be justified in His sight (Rom. 3:9-20).

At the time Paul wrote these words, God's Own people, the Nation Israel, had joined arms with the Gentile nations in crucifying the Lord of Glory, Israel's King and Messiah. In early Acts, national Israel re-affirmed their decision to rebel against God when they continued to reject Christ, resisting the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the preaching of Peter and the 12. Instead of responding in faith, Israel responded in unbelief, persecuting Christ and His followers, which culminated in the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7.

There the heavens open and Stephen saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56). Israel's leaders thought they were judging Stephen when in reality God was judging them. God looked

down on the world in its true state: The Gentile nations had rejected Him, and now His Own Nation Israel had joined with them in rejecting Him as well. The whole world had rejected Him. The whole world was guilty before Him. The whole world was on enemy status before Him.

According to the preaching of Peter and the 12 (Acts 2-3), Jesus was ready to return and make **His foes His footstool** (Acts 2:35). He was about to return to destroy His enemies. That is what the Law and the Prophets looked for. That is what Jesus in His earthly ministry looked for. That is what the 12 looked for. According to all of them, Christ should have returned to deliver His friends and destroy His enemies in His wrath and judgment, starting in Israel but especially among the Gentiles.

But thanks be to God! He didn't do that! Instead He returned to raise up the Apostle Paul and told him to take His grace and peace out to His enemies, to the Jew first but especially to the Gentiles! At the very point that God had concluded ALL—Jew and Gentile alike—under sin (Rom. 3:9) in unbelief (Rom. 11:32) for **ALL have sinned and come short of the Glory of God** (Rom. 3:23), God made known a new revelation of His Righteousness through the apostleship of Paul—**THE BUT NOW RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**.

Depending on how we understand the Righteousness of God, it will either be the scariest thing on earth or the most comforting thing in the world! Luther experienced both responses. At first, he saw the Righteousness of God as the punishment of sinners, like himself, from which there was no way of escape, and he hated it. **IT WAS THE SCARIEST THING ON EARTH!** But then, he read the beginning of Romans and

saw the Righteousness of God as the means by which God justifies sinners like himself (declaring them right before Him) by faith: **AND HE ENTERED PARADISE THROUGH OPEN GATES!** Let's see why Luther had such contrasting experiences with regard to the Righteousness of God.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AS AN ATTRIBUTE OF HIS BEING

Righteous art Thou, O LORD, and upright are Thy judgments ... Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness (Ps. 119:137, 142).

The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works (Ps. 145:17)

God is always perfectly Righteous. He always operates in a way that is consistent with His Own Nature and Being. His Righteousness is the expression of His infinite Holiness: His purity is opposed to all sin, and He cannot allow sinners into His presence. When God displays His Righteousness as an attribute, it separates sinners from Himself by an infinite chasm that sinners cannot span. This is called ***SPIRITUAL DEATH***. If this chasm between unrighteous sinners and an infinitely righteous God is to be spanned, God Himself must be the One to span it.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD DISPLAYED IN SAVING HIS FRIENDS AND DESTROYING HIS ENEMIES

God began to span that chasm when He gave gracious promises to the Patriarchs that culminated in the Covenants of the Nation Israel. In these gracious and unconditional Covenants to Israel, God provided a way whereby He could call sinners who responded in faith His "friends" (2 Chron. 20:7; Is. 41:8; Zech. 13:6; Lk. 12:4; Jn. 15:13-15; James 2:23), and those who did not respond in faith

His "enemies" (Gen. 14:19-20; Ex. 23:22; Ps. 5:8). Once He had done that, He could bless His friends and curse His enemies in accord with the Covenant He made with Abraham, who believed God, thereby becoming His "friend."

I (*the LORD*) will bless those who bless you (*Abraham*) and curse them that curse you (Gen. 12:3).

God promised to bless the friends of Abraham, Israel and God, and curse the enemies of Abraham, Israel and God.

Are you not our God, who drives out the inhabitants of this land (*His enemies*) before the people Israel (*His friends*), and gave it to the seed of Abraham thy **FRIEND forever?** (2 Chron. 20:7)

This is the hope of God's Prophetic Program whereby He will re-establish His glory on the earth through the Nation Israel. This is what the Old Testament looked for. This was David's continual prayer:

Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape ... and save me ... Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked ... unrighteous ... and cruel man ... mine enemies speak against me and they that lay in wait for my soul ... O my God, make haste for my help. Let them (*his enemies*) be confounded and consumed ... and covered with reproach and dishonor ... My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day ... Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high ... My tongue shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: For they (*his enemies*) are confounded and brought to shame (Ps. 71)

This Righteousness of God is displayed when He saves His friends and destroys His enemies. Isaiah said this when referring to the Lord Jesus Christ:

But with righteousness shall He judge the poor and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: And He will smite the earth with the rod of His mouth ... and righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins ... (Then) the wolf also shall dwell with the Lamb ... (Is. 11:4-6)

Micah put it this way:

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy ... until He plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: He will bring me forth to the light ... I shall behold His righteousness ... mine enemy shall see it ... shame shall cover her ... she shall be trodden down as mire ... (Micah 7:8-10).

The Old Testament closes with this:

For the day comes ... all that do wickedly shall be stubble ... and burned up ... but unto you that fear My Name (*His friends*) shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing wings ... (Mal. 4:1-2).

This is the righteousness Jesus Christ talked about in His earthly ministry.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; For He has visited and redeemed His people and raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David ... That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy Covenant which He swore to our father Abraham that He would grant unto us that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness before Him. (Lk. 1:68-75)

And this is what Peter and the 12 preached in early Acts:

Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem ... this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel ... on My

servants and on my handmaidens (*His friends*) I will pour out in those days My Spirit ... blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the that Great and Terrible Day of the Lord come (*the Day when He destroys His enemies*) (Acts 2:14-20, italics mine).

A prophet (*Jesus Christ*) shall the Lord your God raise up unto you ... Him shall ye hear (*His friends*) ... every soul who will not hear (*His enemies*) that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people ... the covenant God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. (Acts. 3:22-25).

According to Peter and the 12, the next thing Christ was going to do was display His Righteousness by returning to deliver His friends (the believing remnant of Israel) and destroy His enemies (unbelieving Israel and especially the Gentiles) in accord with the Abrahamic Covenant. As wonderful as this display of God's Righteousness is in providing the physical/material deliverance needed to fulfill His promise to make His Own Nation, Israel, the head of all nations, and blessing the whole earth with Israel and through her RISE, it does not, however, solve the most fundamental problem of all: **THE PROBLEM OF SPIRITUAL DEATH!**

THE REVELATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS TODAY

But what really happened? Did Christ do what Peter said in early Acts and return in wrath and judgment against His enemies, especially the Gentiles? No! Instead He returned to raise up the Apostle Paul and told him to take His grace and peace out to His enemies, especially the Gentiles! What a change in programs.

When the leaders of Israel in Jerusalem persisted in their refusal to hear the Prophet God sent (the Lord Jesus Christ), resisting the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the preaching of the 12, they continued in their rebellion against God, bringing them into enemy status before God. And in doing this, they threw a monkey wrench into the machinery of God's Prophetic Program with national Israel, bringing it to a screeching halt (Acts 1-7). Because of this, God put His Prophetic Program with national Israel on hold along with her promises and covenants.

It is in this context of the FALL of Israel that the Apostle Paul explains that now the whole world is on enemy status before God. All people—Jew and Gentile alike—are under sin (Rom. 3:9) in unbelief (Rom. 11:32) on enemy status before Him (Rom. 11:28; 5:10) and worthy of His Judgment and Wrath.

**There is NONE righteous no not one ...
there is NONE that seeks after God.
They are all gone out of the way, they
are together become unprofitable;
there is NONE that does good: NO,
NOT ONE—NONE—Jew and Gentile
alike (Rom. 3:10-20)!**

In short: GOD HAS NO FRIENDS TODAY! Today all are ungodly sinners on enemy status before God. Such is our predicament. As sinners, the display of the Righteousness of God as an attribute of His Being can only separate us from Him in Spiritual Death. As enemies, the display of the Righteousness of God in saving His friends and destroying His enemies can only mean destruction for us! Neither can save us from our dire and utterly hopeless predicament! We are worthy of God's coming wrath yet are unable to do anything about it!

BUT GOD DID DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! He displayed a new revelation of the Righteousness of God and manifested

it through the apostleship of Paul. Today God is displaying His Righteousness in **SAVING HIS ENEMIES BECAUSE HE HAS NO FRIENDS!** Today, God is justifying sinners (Rom. 3:21-26), the ungodly (Rom. 4:5), His enemies (Rom. 5:6-10), and He made Paul the pattern. He took the "chief sinner" and His worst enemy, Saul/Paul, who persecuted Christ and His followers, and saved him, revealing to a world of ungodly sinners on enemy status before God a new revelation of His Righteousness: **THE BUT NOW RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD!**

THE BUT NOW RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD DISPLAYED IN SAVING HIS ENEMIES!

BUT NOW, the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: For there is no difference (between Jew and Gentile today): All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 3:21-23)

Instead of coming back to display His Righteousness in destroying His enemies as Peter preached in Acts 2-3, Christ, in fact, came back to display His Righteousness, the BUT NOW Righteousness of God, in SAVING His enemies, ungodly sinners in rebellion against Him, and He started with Saul/Paul.

According to the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God, which was committed to my (Paul's) trust ... who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious ... Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am CHIEF. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me FIRST Jesus Christ might

**show forth all longsuffering, for a PAT-
TERN to them which should hereafter
believe on Him to life everlasting.** (1 Tim.
1:11-16)

Let's remember who Saul/Paul was:

**As for Saul, he made havock of the
church (the believing remnant), entering in-
to every house, and haling men and
women committed them to prison ... And
Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and
slaughter against the disciples of the
Lord ... I (Paul) persecuted this way unto
death, binding and delivering into pris-
ons both men and women ... I (Paul) did
shut up in prison ... and when they were
put to death, I gave my voice against
them ... Beyond measure I (Paul) perse-
cuted the church of God and wasted it ...**
(Acts 8:3; 9:1; 22:4; 26:9-10; Gal. 1:13).

God took the destroyer of Christ and His followers and instead of destroying him, He saved and blessed Him—the Chief sinner, His worst enemy, the leader of the persecutors against God—and revealed in Paul the pattern for salvation ever since. God is not today saving His friends! He is saving His enemies, just like He did with Paul!

If God dealt with Paul by displaying His Righteousness in the way Peter preached at Pentecost, Paul would have been destroyed! But instead God saved him, displaying a new revelation of His Righteousness—THE BUT NOW RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. That's how He saved Paul, and if you are saved today, that's how He saved you as well. Man-made religions and theological systems say no! First you must make yourself godly, first you have to become a friend of God, then God will save you. But God says, No, that's impossible! If you are going to be saved, God must save you while you are still an ungodly sinner on enemy status before Him!

THE CRY OF THE CRITICS!

Religions, even so-called Christian religions, hate this message from Paul. The critics say: “If what Paul is saying is true, that God is now justifying (declaring right before him) wrong and guilty sinners, that would make God an unjust judge, and that would mean He is unrighteous, and that would mean He ceased to be God! Therefore, Paul's apostleship cannot be from God.”

Paul answers this objection by turning it on its head. The BUT NOW Righteousness of God doesn't call into question God's Righteousness, it DECLARES it so loudly that the whole universe can hear! How can this be? Because God did it in the one and only way He could and remain the Just Judge, remain Righteous, remain God! And that was by doing it through the redemptive work of His Son on the Cross where He dealt with the sin, sins and sinner issue once-and-for-all because it was there that Jesus Christ fully satisfied all the demands of an infinitely Righteous, Holy and Just God for sinners!

It is this display of the BUT NOW Righteousness of God that is now being made known through the Apostleship of Paul. It explains how God solved the most fundamental problem of fallen humanity—SPIRITUAL DEATH. It alone provides the basis for SPIRITUAL LIFE for all who believe, in the past, present and future.

**To declare His Righteousness for the re-
mission of sins that are past, through
the forbearance of God; To declare, I
say, AT THIS TIME His Righteousness
that He might be Just and the Justifier
of him who believes in Jesus.**

(Rom. 3:25b-26)

**To Hear More, click here:
[BUT NOW RIGHTEOUSNESS
OF GOD](#)**

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AS AN ATTRIBUTE OF HIS BEING

God is always infinitely and eternally Righteous, Holy and Just. Therefore, He hates sin and cannot bring sinners into His presence as they are.

This display of God's Righteousness separates the sinner from God, resulting in SPIRITUAL DEATH.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN DELIVERING HIS FRIENDS AND DESTROYING HIS ENEMIES.

Through the Good News given in the promises and covenants God gave to the Nation Israel in His Prophetic Program, God found a way to call sinners who respond in faith "friends" (believing Israel and her friends), and those who responded in unbelief "enemies" (apostate Israel and her friends).

When God is faithful in saving His friends and destroying His enemies, it displays His Righteousness, culminating in believing Israel's deliverance at Christ's Return and entrance into her prophesied Earthly Kingdom.

This display of God's Righteousness supplies physical blessings so that the Nation Israel can fulfill her role in re-establishing God's glory on earth.

BUT THIS DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF SPIRITUAL DEATH

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD DISPLAYED IN SAVING HIS ENEMIES BASED ON THE GOOD NEWS OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Through the Good News of Christ's Death God gave to the Body of Christ in His Mystery Program, God manifests the way to save sinners, justify the ungodly and reconcile His enemies.

When God is faithful in bringing ungodly sinners who are on enemy status before Him into a righteousness status before Him by grace through faith, IT DECLARES HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS! (Rom. 3:24-26):

- A. This explains how God saved sinners and called them friends by faith in Time Past and Future. God looked forward to the Cross of Christ.**
- B. This explains how God saves His enemies today on the basis of faith in God who provided salvation through Christ and His Cross to re-establish God's Glory in the Heavens. AND THIS PROVIDES**

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS!

We preach *Christ Crucified*¹; we worship *Jesus Christ According to the Revelation of the Mystery*²; and we study the Bible using the principle of *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*³.

1. 1 Cor. 1:23

2. Rom. 16:25

3. 2 Tim. 2:15

We meet every Sunday morning at the *Rolling Meadows Community Center* located at 3705 Pheasant Dr.

www.gbcm.org

Fellowship and Refreshments: 9:30 - 9:55

Morning Service: 9:55 - 11:15

We have Sunday School for all children

Please visit our website for Directions: [Directions](#)

Newsletter email: biblestudygbcrm@gmail.com

All Articles in the Bold To Speak The Mystery Newsletter are by Steve Walker

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF ROLLING MEADOWS

P.O. Box 1926
 ROLLING MEADOWS COMMUNITY CENTER
 3705 Pheasant Dr.
 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Phone: 847-894-2893

Radio: WYLL 1160 AM - M-F: 8:30-9:00 PM

