

Romans 3

God's Righteousness Upheld

3 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ²Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

No One Is Righteous

⁹What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God. *[Eccl 7:20]*

¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.” *[Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3]*

¹³“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.” *[Ps 5:9]*

“The venom of asps is under their lips.” *[Ps 140:3]*

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” *[Ps 10:7]*

¹⁵“Their feet are swift to shed blood;

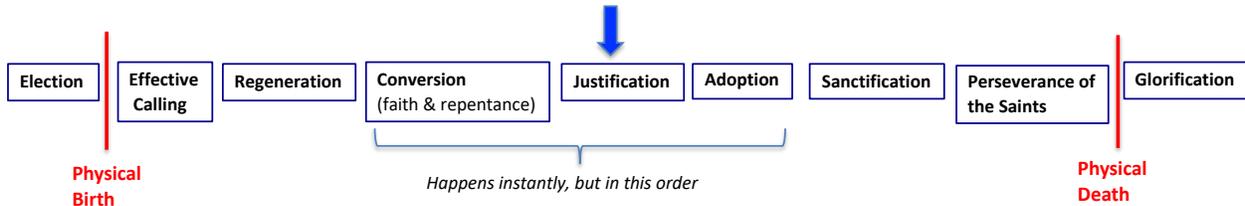
¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷and the way of peace they have not known.” *[Is 59:7; Pr 1:16]*

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” *[Ps 36:1]*

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

HOW & WHEN does it happen?



Regeneration: God imparts a new spiritual heart to us
Conversion: We respond to gospel in repentance of sin & faith in Christ for salvation
Justification: Legal declaration
 God legally declares us right, just, blameless, innocent in His sight.

DOUBLE TRANSFER (one subtraction & one addition)

1. Subtraction

- Our sins are removed from us
- Expiation - Ex = "out of" ... "away from"

**as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

Psalm 103:12

2. Addition

- Imputes Christ's righteousness to us
 (Rom 5:18-19; 2 Cor 5:21; Phil 3:8-9)
- God legally transfers Christ's righteousness to us
- God has given us the cloak of righteousness

JUSTIFICATION IS

- God does not hold us accountable for our sin when we trust in Christ alone
- He declares us righteous—**positionally**.
 - Placed in a position of righteousness (even though we are actually sinful)
 - Indicates our right standing before God but doesn't indicate how we got that way.
 - Through Christ's redemption, propitiation, atonement
 - Through God's grace

JUSTIFICATION IS NOT

- God being ignorant—or overlooking our sin
- **Divine pardon**
Pardon: Admits the guilt, forgives the criminal of his crime; sets him free

Pardon is NEGATIVE –

- Declared guilty. Worthy of punishment.
- But the penalty or debt is forgiven.
- A stigma remains. You are acknowledged to be guilty
- Pardon says, “You may go. You’ve been let off of the penalty which your sin deserves”

Justification is POSITIVE:

- Acceptance
- Justification says, “You may come. You are welcome to all my love and my presence.
- The punishment cannot be justly inflicted;
- No grounds exist to punish

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Righteousness:

1. God provides it. We don't possess it ourselves.
2. Provided by grace. We are incapable of deserving it.
3. Work of Jesus Christ; Jesus' redeeming work made this grace of God possible
4. Becomes ours through simple faith

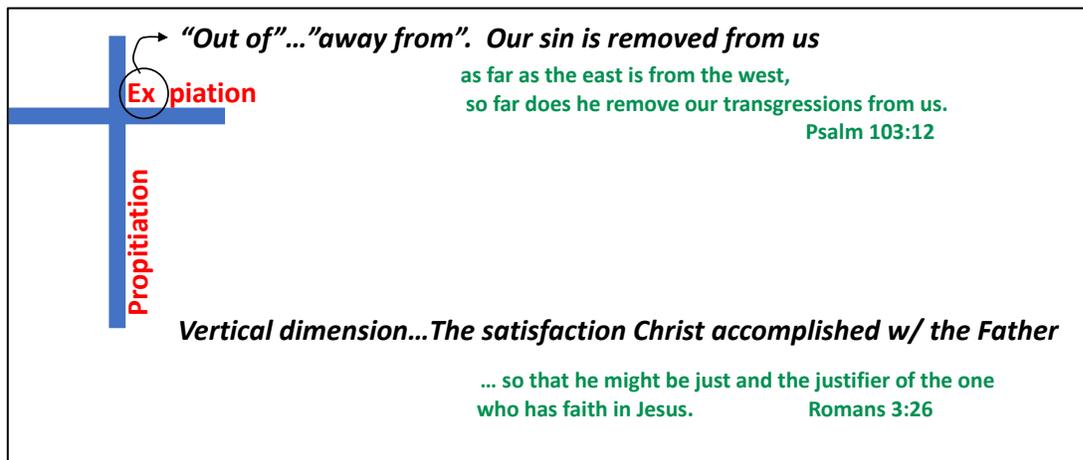
Propitiation

Satisfies:

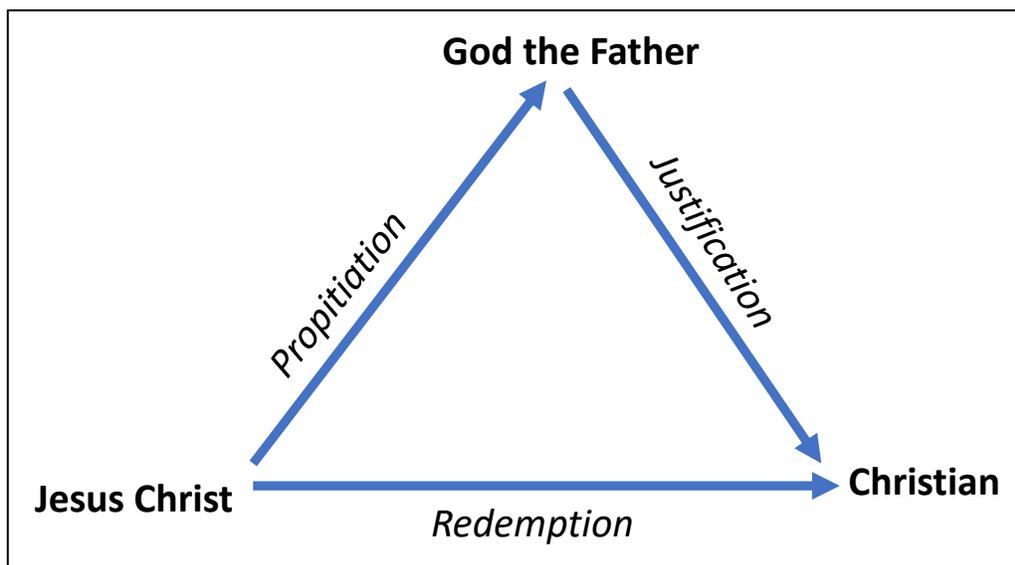
- God's wrath
- God's demands for justice

Expiation

Ex = “out of”... “away from”



This is how God saves us:



- **Jesus Christ** has two actions: redemption & propitiation
 - He achieved our salvation
 - It is His work
- **God the Father** is the
 - recipient of one action: propitiation
 - author of one action: justification

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Faith is:

1. Knowledge
2. Belief and Trust
3. Commitment

Justification by FAITH

- Faith is not a good work
- Faith is a gift
- Faith is a ‘means’;
 - the only means a person can be justified is by believing God and receiving what He offers
 - Christ’s work of:
 - Redemption
 - Propitiation
 - The Father’s:
 - Justification
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification
 - New Life

It’s not faith that saves us; it’s Jesus and His perfect work that saves us

WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH---as opposed to what?

- As opposed to working to be saved.
- As opposed to being good enough to be saved