

# POWER HOUR

5/3/2026

Lesson Text:  
Romans 3:21-31

Related Scriptures:  
Romans 4:1-25; Galatians 5:2-6,  
Ephesians 2:1-9, 1 John 2:1-2 &  
Exodus 34:6-7

“RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH  
FAITH”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. Romans 3:28 NLT

**Time:** A.D. 57

**Place:** from Corinth

## Romans 3:21-31 NLT

<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, <sup>26</sup> for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. <sup>28</sup> So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. <sup>29</sup> After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. <sup>30</sup> There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

<sup>31</sup> Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In order to help unite the Jews and Gentiles in Rome, Paul addressed salvation. We are not saved by following the law but by faith in Jesus. It is not our works, but the perfect work of Jesus Christ. His suffering death, burial and resurrection. Jews and Gentiles are saved the same way: through the grace of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

**1. God's righteousness in salvation (Romans 3:21-24).** God progressively revealed His plan of salvation. He created man and woman, and later, He chose a people. He gave them the Old Testament. God's revelation did not end there. He made His righteousness known in Jesus Christ. The Law and the Prophets were not an end in and of themselves. They testified to the coming of Jesus and the satisfaction of the wrath of God on the cross (Hebrews 10:1-10). The laws revealed the holiness of God while showing the need to trust in God for salvation (Romans 4:1-25).

Everyone has sinned; no one can achieve salvation through works. We all fall short of God's glory. However, God offered us salvation by His grace through Jesus Christ. Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law for us and offers us salvation so that we might live for Him.

**2. God's justice in Jesus (Romans 3:25-26).** Many people wonder how God can be just if all one has to do is trust Christ for salvation. Imagine someone who has lived a terrible life but trusts in Christ at the end of his life. Is it right for that person to be saved?

God is perfectly just, and every single one of us would stand condemned before Him. But Jesus perfectly atoned for our sins on the cross and bore God's wrath in our place. People were always saved through faith, but their knowledge was incomplete. That is why Paul referred to past sins (vs. 25). Now we see the completed work of Christ and understand how God is just and the One who justifies.

**3. God's justification of believers (Romans 3:27-31).** We have no grounds for boasting in our own abilities. Any person can be saved, but only through faith in Jesus. It is common to try to retroactively earn our salvation. We may at first acknowledge we are saved by grace but later try to add good deeds. That is foolishness. Having begun by faith, we continue in faith.

On the other hand, faith does not nullify the law but upholds it. We do not earn our salvation through good works, but we demonstrate our salvation by good works.

### **PRACTICAL POINTS**

We should read the Old Testament and always look for ways it points to the New Testament (Romans 3:21).

We all must put our faith in Jesus Christ and what He has accomplished to save us. (vss. 22-24).

If we believe and trust in Jesus, God is just to declare us righteous (vss. 25-26).

Because Christians have been justified by grace, they should be humble people (vs. 27).

We must never put any hope in our own works (vs. 28).

All people must be saved through faith (vss. 29-30).

Though we are saved by grace, we still must obey God (vs. 31).

### **CONCLUSION**

Paul explained that salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, which excludes our own effort. Once we are saved, we do good works as a manifestation of our faith and relationship with Christ. Are there any ways in which you are tempted to take your salvation into your own hands? Surrender that to God, and thank Him for His grace. Are there any ways in which you are ignoring your salvation and continuing to walk in sin? Do not delay repenting and turning instead to good works through the power of the Holy Spirit!

## QUESTION(S)

1. What did Paul say was the purpose of the law?
2. What two Old Testament examples did Paul later give of righteousness by faith?
3. What does the word “justify” mean?
4. What did the word “redemption” refer to in Paul’s day?
5. What image would Paul’s language have likely called to mind for his Jewish readers?
6. How were Old Testament sins dealt with?
7. How can God be just to declare the guilty to be not guilty?

**Next week,** We will turn our attention to what it looks like to have peace with God and hope because of Jesus. **“Saved from Wrath” Romans 5:1-11.**

*Union Gospel Press, LifeStone*