

POWER HOUR

5/5/2024

Lesson Text:
Romans 3:21-30

Background Scripture:
Romans 3:21-30

Devotional Reading:
John 3:1-8, 13-17

“JUSTIFIED BY FAITH”

NLT TRANSLATION

Learning Facts: To identify some major things that went into God's plan of Christ's sacrifice.

Biblical Principle: [To understand that the foundation of salvation is our faith in Christ.](#)

Daily Application: To try and see the things we all have in common, instead of the things we don't. Paul did! ...and so did Jesus!

Romans 3:21-30 NLT

21 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. **22** 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. **23** For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. **24** 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. **25** 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, **26** 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. **27** 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. **28** So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. **29** After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't He also the God of the Gentiles? Of course He is. **30** There is only one God, and He makes people right with Himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

INTRODUCTION

Righteousness Declared

Paul's theme in the second section of his letter to the Romans was Salvation—Righteousness Declared. He had proved that all men are sinners (Romans 3:9-20); next, he was to explain how sinners can be saved. The theological term for this salvation is justification by faith. Justification is the act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous in Christ based on the finished work of Christ on the cross. Each part of this definition is important, so we must consider it carefully.

To begin with, justification is an act, not a process. There are no degrees of justification; each believer has the same right standing before God. Also, justification is something God does, not man. No sinner can justify himself before God. Most important, justification does not mean that God makes us righteous, but that He declares us righteous.

Justification is a legal matter. God puts the righteousness of Christ on our record in the place of our sinfulness. And nobody can change this record.

Do not confuse justification and sanctification. Sanctification is the process whereby God makes the believer more and more like Christ. Sanctification may change from day to day. Justification never changes. When the sinner trusts Christ, God declares him righteous, and that declaration will never be repealed. God looks on us and deals with us as though we have never sinned at all!

But how can The Holy God declare sinners righteous? In this section of Romans, Paul answered this question by explaining justification by faith (Romans 3:21-31), part of our lesson text today.

CONCLUSION

Things We All Have in Common

All human brokenness and sorrow can be traced back to sin. That's something that everyone has in common. Rumors of wars create us-versus-them mentalities and the potential of violence through stoked hatred; war makes that violence a state-sanctioned reality and sows fear and destruction, reducing people to statistics of the dead and displaced. Even in times of relative peace, the seemingly conflicting hopes and fears for a nation's future can become polarizing calls to action, preventing the respect and cooperation necessary for cooperation and thriving within communities.

Even when we are not facing existential threats of war or violence, we are all broken by sin. It's sad that we are all united in this, but fortunately, the cure is also something we all have in common. Our own efforts cannot heal us. We can make every effort to get self-help materials, and even seek professional advice. Nevertheless, those sins we try to

conquer through constant effort will always drag us back down, always requiring us to try again—unless we call on Jesus, who removes the sin, and gives our efforts a whole new meaning.

We all need Jesus. He is the one person we can all have in common and in whom we can find unity outside of our sinfulness (John 17:20–23). He is the only one who can transform our efforts from futility in sin and death to Spirit-led works of hope and life.

QUESTION(S)

- What texts in the law can explain that God's righteousness cannot be attained through obedience to it? (See Isaiah 53:6).
- How have you experienced God's patience?
- Which scripture would you use to show someone that we are being made new in Christ?

PRAYER

Gracious Father, thank You for Your gift of salvation through faith in Jesus. Thank You that it is a gift offered to everyone regardless of race or status. Forgive us when we think we have to earn this gift. In Jesus' name through whom we have our salvation. Amen.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Stop struggling to earn the gift of salvation that Christ offers.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "*Counted as Righteous*" where we summarize Paul's view of Abraham's faith. Study Romans 4:13–25.