

**THE ROMAN REVEALING**  
**Theme: The Reign of Righteousness**  
**From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan**

**SUBJECT: GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED**

**SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 3:21-31**

**Sermon No. 9**

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**Introduction**

In our last message, The World of Humanism, we found the fearful picture of a whole world changed, convicted and condemned before a Holy God. But a tremendous change is introduced here. Look at the words “**But now**” in verse 21, But now everything has changed. The word “But” links us to that condemned and guilty world before God. The word “Now” links us to the fact that a deliverance is available to man through God’s Son, Jesus Christ through the sufficient work of redemption on faith alone.

These verses reveal to us three steps of God’s grace:

1. **The Revelation of God’s Righteousness. 21-23**
2. The Meditation of God’s Righteousness. 24-26
3. The Application of God’s Righteousness. 27-31

**I. THE REVELATION OF GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS. 21-23**

*God’s righteousness is revealed in three ways...*

**1. In a Supernatural Way. (21a) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested..** Paul makes it clear that man could have never conceived or completes such a plan of salvation

that would have satisfied the demands of a Holy God. It had to be God himself! Man could never bring Christ down from above nor raise him from the dead to produce salvation and righteousness of man!

The statement **without the law** means that Christ fulfilled the requirements of God for man's salvation without any help from the law! When Jesus Christ cried from that cross "It is finished" man's salvation was completed, nothing else was required! He had accomplished forever man's righteousness that satisfied a Holy God and justified sinful man! *So, God's method of making man righteous is not only revealed through a supernatural way, also..*

**2. In a Scriptural Way. (21b) Being witnessed by the law and the prophets.** This takes in all of the Old Testament!

**The Pentateuch predicts God's way of righteousness.** The coats of skin that God wrapped around sinning Adam and Eve was a symbol of blood-shedding. There was Abels sacrifice of the best he had was well pleasing to God and his brother's offering of the lest he had was rejected. These were the forshadowing of what Jesus Christ was coming to do as he died on the cross finalizing God's way of righteousness!

**The Psalms Portrayed God's Way of Righteousness.** Psalm 22 is a description of death by crucifixion which was utterly unknown untill the time of the Roman Empire. Psalm 23 describes the risen Savior leading his people along the paths of righteousness. Psalm 24 describes the glorious vision of the ascended Lord.

**The Prophets Proclaimed God's Way of Righteousness.** The references of both the major and minor prophets is concerning the Savior coming into the world, his death on the cross, and his resurrection is unfolding God's method of making guilty man righteous on the basis of grace and faith alone! *So, God's method*

*of making man righteous in a supernatural way, a scriptural way but also...*

**3. In a Saving Way. (22-23) 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; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.** As by Adam's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of Christ many were made righteous! God makes men and women, boys and girls righteous through Jesus Christ! There is no other way! It is by faith that this righteousness is received. Faith expresses man's helplessness while exalting the sufficiency of the Savior's sacrifice on the cross! Whoever man is, whatever man is, rich or poor, Jew or Greek all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...and all are in need of salvation!! Christ is the only means by which any man may receive righteousness! *The revelation of god's righteousness but also...*

**II. THE MEDIATION OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD (24-26).** Here we come to the very heart of the Christian message! In these verses we learn how to appreciate what God has done to be a just God in setting the standard of his Holy law and yet being the Justifier of all who believe in Jesus Christ! *Paul teaches us three facts here:*

**1. God's Righteousness is Graciously Mediated. (24a). Being justified freely by his grace.** The word "freely" means without a cause. There was no cause in us for God to give to us his righteousness! There was nothing in us that merited God's grace. The word "justified" means to pardon from sin, to do away with all guilt and punishment and he does this through Jesus Christ! It is through Jesus Christ that you and I are made righteous! *Also...*

## **2. God's Righteousness is Redemptively Mediated. (24b).**

**Through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.** The word "redemption" means a deliverance from the guilt of sin through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Scripture tells us that He came to give his life a ransom for many. Peter tells us that we are not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The blood represents both the price and power of redemption. *So, not only is the righteousness of God mediated graciously and redemptively but also...*

## **3. God's Righteousness is Proficiently Mediated. (25-26).**

**Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission 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 which believe in Jesus.** The word "propitiation" means a sacrifice that satisfied all the demands of God's Holy law. These two verses show our Lord Jesus Christ as the connecting link of two eternities when he hung there on the cross. He died for the remission of sins that are past. All of the sacrifices that had been slain on Jewish alters in the Old Testament for the forgiveness of sin gained victory through his death! All of the future was covered, the present was covered, and the future was covered through the propitiation of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross. *The mediation of the righteousness of God leads to...*

### III. THE APPLICATION OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. (27-31).

**1. Righteousness Excludes the Pride of Man. (27).** *Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay; but the law of faith.* Paul tells us here that the law of works is counselled out by the law of faith! The law of works insists on trying in the flesh to be righteous, but this is to no avail! Man can never become righteous through works, no matter how he tries! Man cannot earn or buy his way to heaven! The word “excluded” means shut out completely! Man has no ground whatsoever for boasting of his own righteousness. It comes from God through Jesus Christ! *But also...*

**2. Righteousness Effects the Life of Faith. (28-30).** *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law... 30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith and circumcision through faith.* Man, whoever he is cannot receive righteousness through any works of his own, it must come through faith alone! Without your faith God cannot meet your needs as a sinner! *The life of faith produces righteousness but also...*

**3. Righteousness Establishes the Law of God. (31).** *Do we make void the law through faith? God forbid, yea, we establish the law.* This law was established when Jesus Christ met the requirements of a Holy God on the cross! There is nothing we need to do to make us right with God. Jesus Christ has already met all the requirements of God. My friends, that is amazing grace!

#### **Conclusion**

That amazing grace that saved a wretch like me, Oh how sweet the

sound! What joy that flooded my heart that night of August 1956 at 1:15 in the morning, Greenville, Mississippi when I experienced that wonderful mercy of God through Jesus Christ giving to me the righteousness of God!

Does this righteousness reign in your life my friend? Have you identified yourself with Jesus Christ as Personal Lord and Savior?