

Romans 3v21-26

GOD HAS INTERVENED TO CLEANSE US WITH BLOOD.

I. In Christ, a new hope has dawned **(21-24)**.

A. Our hopeless and helpless state could not undue God's plan to save us.

B. Cross of Christ sits as climax of God's intervention to bring new life, removing the stain of our sin and rescuing us from its rule **(24-26)**.

1. Cross **redeems** God's people (v. 24).

2. Cross satisfies God's wrath (v. 25a - **Propitiation**).

3. Cross **demonstrates** God's just-ness (v. 25b-26)

(This is great mystery revealed in Gospel...(Stott) God Himself gives Himself to save us from Himself)

II. We stand as new creatures, white as snow, having been cleansed by the blood of the cross.

A. In the cross justification, God's legal declaration of innocence, overcomes our condemnation.

B. Justification: what drives it, where it comes from, and how we can obtain it.

1. **Source** of justification is God's grace.

2. **Ground** of justification is Christ's cross.

3. **Means** by which we obtain justification is faith alone.

(So there it is, the Gospel laid bare. God has intervened to raise us from death to life through faith.)

III. Our response is to receive what He has done with rejoicing.

A. Receive through faith the offer of complete forgiveness. There is no sin that is so dark that it cannot be cleansed by His blood.

B. Rejoice in our new identity.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. Restate the problem presented in verse 20.
2. What does Paul mean when he says, “for there is no distinction?” Why is there no distinction?
3. Spend some time in meditation on verses 23-24. Note the present tense of the phrase “fall short.” Also, consider that the participle “being justified” is present and should be translated “*while* being justified.” Try to understand the depth of what Paul is saying here. We use this verse strictly for unbelievers. Does Paul use it solely for this purpose, or is there a sense in which we are still being justified? What are your thoughts?
4. Interpret verse 24 in light of the context. Define the following...
 - a. Justification –
 - b. Redemption –
 - c. Propitiation (cf. Ex. 25:17-22; Heb. 9:1-22; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10) -
5. In verse 5, what do you think Paul means when he says God “passed over sins previously committed?” The word *παρεσιν* (*παρεσιν*) means “suspension of punishment” (cf. Acts 17:30).
6. In verse 26, what does Paul mean when he says that to the one who has faith in Christ, God has become both just and the justifier?

Zoom Meeting discussion Wednesday, 7:30-8:30pm

Use the short link first. If it doesn't work, type in the long link below.

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