

***“Romans, Dispensationally Considered —
The Essence of Our Redemption Under Grace Explained”***

Review:

- ***So What About the Jews, Where Do They Stand Before Almighty God?***
- ***Both Jews and Gentiles Are All Under Sin***
- ***By the Law is the Knowledge of Sin, But the Righteousness of God is By Faith of Jesus Christ***

- ***So What About the Jews, Where Do They Stand Before Almighty God?***

Romans 3:1-8

1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. [“Oracles” = “direct, verbal revelation from God”]

- ***As we see here, the apostle will always exalt the direct and verbal revelation of Almighty God to mankind. For the Lord gave it to man and it therefore has a significance beyond any other word. I further believe this is a reference to the specifically “written” word of God, given directly to Israel.***

- ***But the issue for mankind is that God’s word is so easily ignored or worse, actively opposed, even with the intent of destroying it if that were possible. This is of course satan’s grand design. What does that written word say? Paul refers back to the Old Testament of course, for that is what was given to Israel:***
 - ***All are liars, only God always speaks the truth (Ps. 138:2 and many others). If God says all are under his judgment as sinners, then it must be so. That is the bottom line. It is a simple and compelling truth. Isn’t it? God has spoken to us in his word to man. His glory has been revealed most definitively through his word. So we MUST listen and take note. His very revelation of himself to man through his word proves our need beyond question. Is. 45 says it like this:***

Isaiah 45:9-10, 18-19 [Quoted by Paul in Romans 9]

10 Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?

...

18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and *there is* none else.

19 I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

- ***So the Lord hides himself but has revealed himself through his word of truth and righteousness. All must take heed. See Ps. 119:9.***

- ***So the Law condemned all Israel and also all mankind. But the promise of the coming Seed of the Woman stood firm as had other scriptures as well. God alone could provide a true and final solution to sin. So indeed, the righteousness (righteous judgment) of God was “testified” by the law and the prophets” as verse says.***

- ***Both Jews and Gentiles Are All Under Sin***

Romans 3:9-10

9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

- ***Verse 10 stands out and is a direct reference to other Old Testament scriptures such as Ps. 14:1-3 and 53:1-3:***

Psalms 53:1-3

1 To the chief Musician upon Mahalath, Maschil, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is* none that doeth good.

2 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were *any* that did understand, that did seek God.

3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

- ***And so the apostle continues his “divine argument” for our benefit by now stating that not only the Jews but also all mankind stand under the judgment of Almighty God as previously “proven”. For if the word of God was a benefit and gave an advantage to the Jews to whom it was given, and it condemned them all for their***

disobedience, then by implication, all those that did not have that advantage, all the Gentiles, were similarly held accountable for they were even more disadvantaged not having it! QED. Quod Erat Demonstrandum!

- ***This is one of the most extensive list of the sins of man found anywhere. There is no escape for sinners apart from God's solution for sin alone. For sin is too deep seated for it ever to be expunged. But how can it be this deep? "... As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." But it is, the apostle writes, whatever we might think ...***
- ***By the Law is the Knowledge of Sin, But the Righteousness of God is By Faith of Jesus Christ***
 - ***The Gentile position is clear, now the position of the Jews is declared by Old Testament scripture. And its applicability to all Gentiles is also established. For the verbal revelation of God, the "special" revelation given only to the Jews in the Law and the prophets agrees with the witness of the stars in that regard. God's righteousness or righteous judgment of all HAS BEEN REVEALED. Period.***

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

- ***All, Jew and Gentile, "guilty before God"***
- ***No righteousness by works of law is therefore possible, and that was "witnessed" by the law and the prophets***
- ***But now the righteousness of God has been revealed through Jesus Christ and his atonement for sin***
- ***So now all may be justified only through faith and never by works***

Our Scripture:

Romans 3:21-31

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 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:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 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;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

31 Do we then make void [the] law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the [law].

Our Outline Today: “The Essence of Our Redemption Under Grace Explained”

- ***Our Redemption — Boldly Stated (v. 24)***
- ***God’s Promised Future Mercy Seat Stands Revealed (v. 25a)***
- ***His Righteousness — Available Now (v. 25b-26)***

Next Time:

- ***Justification By Faith Removed Fleshly Boasting Forever! (Vv. 27-31)***

I. Our Redemption — Boldly Stated (v. 24)

- ***What meaneth “Our Redemption”?***
 - ***Buying back, redeeming, ransom ... “The act of ransoming in full ...” — Strong’s dictionary.***

- ***Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14: used 10 times only, 9 by Paul.***
- ***Where is this redemption to be found?***
 - ***In Christ Jesus alone for he shed his blood for the remission of sins. Israel had a “covering” only for sins through the ceremonial law. But true remission of sins awaited for the future and full remission through the New Covenant. But that had not yet been provided according to the Old Testament revelation. It would be at the time of the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom. But, Paul writes here, we have the benefits of that through our redeemer, the Lord Jesus, who paid the full price through the shedding of his blood. Amen and amen.***
- ***Christ Jesus — What a hiding place indeed we sinners have today. The blood of the New Covenant has been shed and for all today, the blessings of that once and for all sacrifice are available according to the riches of God’s grace for us all, not only for the Jews. The dispensational implications of this are astounding. No wonder Paul is writing this letter to the saints in Rome, whatever their background and ethnicity. Praise God!***

II. God’s Promised Future Mercy Seat Stands Revealed (v. 25a):

- ***Paul now continues and uses the very term that was at the center of the Mosaic revelation, “mercy seat” to show the contrasts with what had been revealed to God’s people Israel so long before:***
- ***Righteousness implied (under the Law):***

[READ] Exodus 25:18-19

18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

[READ] Leviticus 16:1-6

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died;

2 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy

seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.

4 He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.

5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

[READ] Leviticus 16:11-15

11 And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail:

13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did

with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

- *But it is in the letter to the Hebrews where this is all explained for us, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, for there is no distinction today in God's sight:*

Hebrews 9:19-26

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

20 Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

23 *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

- *Of course all of this is in accord with what stands written in these commandments in chapter 23:*

Leviticus 23:23-32

23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

25 Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

27 Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30 And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31 Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 It *shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

- *These words would have been on the minds of every observant Jew, of course. But in Hebrews chapter 9 Paul reveals how this all had been now set aside under the dispensation of the grace of God. And so the apostle continues here in the Romans 3 with that short but so powerful statement that we will then compare with the Hebrews teaching:*

- *Righteousness inaugurated (under grace):*

[READ] Romans 3:23-26

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 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 [*or “have occurred”*], through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:1-5

1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

[READ] Hebrews 9:6-10

6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

- *Though there are some continuing differences of opinion as to when “the time of reformation” would begin, but as the Hebrews teaching makes clear and Romans summarizes for us, we as members of the Body of Christ today already have every spiritual blessing. We do not have what was promised to Israel here on this earth however. So some of the New Covenant has already been instituted but the rest awaits Christ’s second coming. See Jer. 31:27-34 for this detailed prophecy.*

But what was promised spiritually to Israel we already have under the riches of God’s abundant grace. Praise God.

[READ] Hebrews 9:11-14

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:
14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- ***So that previous Mosaic legal system was about the flesh and a “purifying of the flesh” according to that Mosaic standard. But now the blood of Christ has accomplished so much more:***
“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God”!
- ***The Mosaic system was therefore “fleshly” as one might expect from Paul’s strong affirmation that “by the law is the knowledge of sin” in verse 10 of Romans chapter 3...***
- ***And then in verse 14 here we see how the new realm that Christ has instituted is all about the spirit, the “Eternal Spirit” of God and how even the conscience of believers may be “purged from dead works” to serve the living God. Instead of a guilty conscience as the law offered Israel we may today have a clear conscience having had our polluted conscience delivered from all of the “dead works” of that law.***

These are words to dwell upon that we might be instructed of how complete and perfect our redemption truly is. May we think of them often and be transformed by their power “to serve the living God” in the realm of his eternal spirit. Amen.

III. His Righteousness — Available Now (vv. 25b-26)

- ***WE have come far in laying a foundation for seeing ever so clearly how the dispensational plan of God has been ordained and so much of it already has been brought to pass. Let’s read the Romans verses again to see how the apostle says so much in so few words:***

Romans 3:23-26

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 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;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

- ***His righteousness declared (vv. 25b-26a):***

“... 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 believeth in Jesus.” He must be himself righteous (that is what “just” actually means here) in order that he might be “the justifier” (or, similarly, the one who makes righteous) every one believing in him. So it is the righteousness of Christ that is the initial focus here, for all else follows from that.

- ***His righteousness proven (v. 26b):***

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

- ***Paul here is explaining what he has just written before, concerning “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”. That is based using his own words in verse 25, on how God hath set him and him alone as “the propitiation”.***

- ***What is this “propitiation”? As we have seen from Heb. 9:5 read a moment ago, where the same Greek word is translated “mercy seat”:***

Exodus 30:10 And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 8:10-15

10 And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.

11 And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.

12 And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.

13 And Moses brought Aaron's sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

14 And he brought the bullock for the sin offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering.

15 And he slew *it*; and Moses took the blood, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.

- ***And so the yearly atonement was accomplished according to the Law of Moses. Ah, but today, Christ is and always be our sufficient sacrifice. No more shedding of blood is needed, since the Lamb of God has already been slain. So his righteousness is available for all who will believe:***

- ***His righteousness provided (v. 25b - 26b):***

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and **the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.**

- ***“through faith in his blood”, verse 25, and “him which believeth in Jesus”, verse 26, are the words of application to sinners such as ourselves.***
- ***The question above all others then is this: have we actually believed this, Paul's doctrine, or have we believed another based on a false doctrine of work or works plus faith? For Christ alone is the propitiation or mercy seat today, and only faith in him as such can and will result in the “justification” or “declaration” of righteousness for anyone. If we have not been so declared based on his righteousness in becoming our propitiation and our faith in his as our redeemer, then we are still dead in trespasses and sins as Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 1 makes so clear: “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins...”***

- ***Such blessings indeed are upon all of us believers today, whether Jew or Greek. This is the good news we have and hold and should be sharing with all.***

Conclusions / Application: