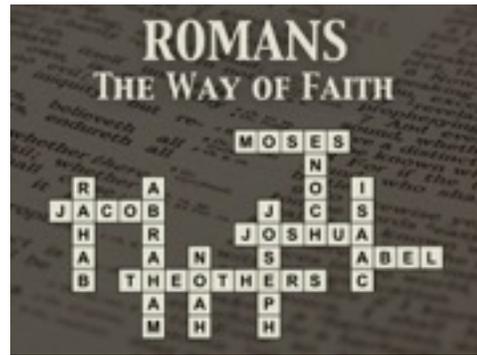


# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

No matter how hard we try to live good lives, we will never meet God's requirements of the Law. Today's passage in Romans gives us the good news...that God has offered to us his own righteousness through his Son, Jesus Christ.



## Observations

### Romans 3:21-31 (Pew Bible Page #916)

<sup>21</sup> But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

### "God's Story"

The Bible tells one *continuous* story of God's redemption.

The Old Testament (Law and Prophets) point toward Jesus Christ, our Savior.

### "The Fall"

For all have sinned (act independently of God)

All fall short of the glory of God (God's glory does not shine through us)

### "God's Work of Redemption"

Christ is our sacrifice of atonement, or "Mercy Seat" (Rom 3:25; Ex 25:17-22; Leviticus 16:1-34)

Nadab & Abihu - Leviticus 10:1-3

Blood of sacrifice represents life, is what cleanses us (Expiation)

According to Hebrews 11:1, FAITH IS...

### When We Have Faith in Christ, We Have:

- Right \_\_\_\_\_ (Forgiveness)
- Right \_\_\_\_\_ (Restoration)
- Right \_\_\_\_\_ (Freedom)



## Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

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## Application *for abundant living:*

In Leviticus 10, we read of the story of Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, who disrespectfully came to God on their own terms. God struck them dead, saying, "Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified," (Lev 10:3).

How do you respond to this story? When you come to church, do you understand how awesome and holy God is? Do you come into his presence flippantly, without respecting his holiness? When you pray, do you understand that you are coming before God Almighty? It is only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we can come before God and are acceptable in his sight.

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## Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

### **Read Hebrews 9:1-10:39**

This is a passage that describes Christ's work as our High Priest. We see many similarities of Christ's sacrifice to that which was required by God's law to the Israelites.

Hebrews 9:23 and 10:1 explain that the Old Testament Law is a copy of the things to come. What has God accomplished through Christ, and how does the Old Testament story help us to understand this work?

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## Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

In what ways have you been trying to earn God's favor? Is there guilt that won't go away?

In what ways do you see that God has been at work in your life?

How did you come to faith in Christ? How might you lead another person to faith in Christ?

Spend time this week praying for someone to come to faith in Christ. Ask God to open their heart to his truth and that God would place the right people in their life.