**But Now!**

**Romans 3:1-3:31**

**(Lesson #6)**

***3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4 By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." 5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come? —  as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.***

Paul places the questions on the lips of his fictional Jewish person, but these are the questions that have likely formed in our minds as we finished chapter 2.

**Vs 1 -** This is quite natural, especially after what Paul had just said in chapter 2:

*“28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.” (Ro 2:28-29 ESV)*

Based on what Paul had said, this is a very logical question!

**Vs 2 -** Here is Paul’s answer to the question: **Much, a great deal**, in **every way**. There are a list of advantages. **To begin with or of first importance!**

1. The Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God

The word translated oracles, is the Greek word: **λόγιον** (logion), it literally means **words** of God or the **utterances** of God.

*Ac 7:38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.*

**John Gill –** *“By which are meant the law of Moses, and the writings of the prophets…”*

**Frank Thielman –***“God had selected Israel, out of all nations of the earth, to receive his law (Deut 4:8; Ps 147:19-20), and Israel’s obedience to the law would set it apart as a “kingdom of priests” (Exod 19:6), presumably mediating the character of God to the rest of the world.”*

As early as the third -century BC, Greek speaking Jews referred to the law as the “oracles of God.”

Just as initially the apostles and ultimately the church have been entrusted by God with the task of **preaching the gospel** (I ICor 9:17, Gal 2:7, I Thes 2:4, I Tim 1:11, Titus 1:3). Israel was entrusted with God’s laws and they were to serve as a light to the Gentiles **(Gen 22:18, Is 49:6).**

Paul’s main point is Israel had a massive advantage in that they were entrusted with the oracles of God!

**Vs 3 -** What if those who received the **“oracles”** of God were **“unfaithful?”** The Greek word is **ἀπιστέω (apisteo).** The word means to be **unfaithful**, to **betray trust**, or to **disbelieve**.

Let’s put the meat on the question. What if some Jews were unfaithful to God’s covenant, namely obeying the law and being a light to the Gentiles? **Does their unbelief nullify God’s faithfulness?**

**Does their unfaithfulness (Paul has proven that they were) (render idle, inactivate, or destroy) God’s faithfulness?**

Throughout the Bible we see two clear things. God’s faithfulness and man’s unfaithfulness. The Song of Moses is just one example:

God has been and will be faithful to every single word that proceeded from his mouth. He will keep the conditions of every covenant He has ever entered into.

Israel wrongly thought they could behave however they wanted, and God would not judge them.

**Vs 4** - No, by no means! God, in spite of man’s or Israel’s faithlessness does not make God unfaithful to His Word!

**Then he quotes (in part):** *“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.” (Ps 51:4 ESV)*

This is David and notice his points that Paul seizes on:

1. Sin is against God.
2. When he judges, He is justified in his determination.

If God’s punishment of David were to come under divine review, God will be found to have acted justly and blamelessly.

**In Summation: Paul’s teaching on the impartiality of God’s judgment does not threaten the privileged place of Israel in salvation history.**

**Vs 5-6 -** The logical question. **But if our unrighteousness, highlights or shows off God’s righteousness, does that make God unrighteous if He inflicts judgement (and subsequent) wrath on us?**

The objection is strange, for let’s be honest, when we sin none of us did so to make God look good. **We are sinning because we want to!**

**But, you see Paul’s response: By no means, then He explains why. If so, God could never judge sinners, for their sin, always highlights God’s righteousness.** A silly conclusion, but one Paul had to put down!

**Vs 7-8 -** Again, Paul continues to make the unreasonable argument, if God’s truth can be more glorified through man’s lie, why does God condemn?

*“It is like saying that if my lying throws into sharp relief the truth of God and increases his glory, then why should he still judge me a sinner?” (Ro 3:7 Philips)*

Now we see why he has been running this rather strange line of thinking… Rather, why not do evil, that good (the display of God’s righteousness) might come from it. ***As some people slanderously charge us with saying.***

It appears, Paul’s message of justification by faith in Jesus, Paul’s message of salvation by grace, was causing some (likely in the Jewish community) to make the charge that Paul’s gospel teaches us to do evil (sin like the devil) and God will work good out of that.

**Notice, he is clear, to say that of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, is a slanderous charge, it is an evil report, it is a BLASPHEMOUS ACCUSATION!**

His conclusion about those who say such things: **There condemnation** (those who say such things) **is just!**

**Their κρίμα** (krima), a word that simply means **judgment**, in this context clearly carrying **negative overtones**. The judgment of God against those who declare such things about the gospel of Jesus Christ is right, it is **ἔνδικος** (endikos), it is **just**.

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***9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."***

Paul comes to one final massive all-important question:

**Vs 9a** - ***What then? Are we Jews any better off?***

Chapter 3 started with us thinking there is no advantage to being a Jew.

Paul quickly corrected that thinking. Now maybe, we are starting to think once again, ok, so having the oracles of God will give Jews a (special break) on judgment day. Paul quickly deals with this!

**This was an important question for to the Jew. Their answer was, well of course it will… YES!**

**Vs 9b -** Paul’s answer… **NO! not at all.**

Observation, I find Paul’s word choice interesting. I love his choice of pronoun, not me, but we. We have already proven the charge. **For we have already proven both Jews and Gentiles are under sin.**

**Can I remind you of the charge:**

*“For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.” (Ro 2:12 ESV)*

Paul made a list of charges against the Gentiles, he followed that with a list of charges against the Jews, **now he is about to string a list of charges against all mankind.**

**All men and all women have broken God’s law, they have sinned against God. Those who only had natural revelation (creation, conscience, and moral reasoning) have sinned against that. Those who also had the word of God, have sinned against that and the law!**

**Vs 10 -** This is the fourth time in Romans that Paul has used the formula “as it is written” (1:17, 2:24, 3:4) to bring in the witness of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Here Paul uses the Old Testament to prove that both Jews and Gentiles need to be saved, apart from a work of God in their hearts, they are bankrupt and destitute.

Paul now strings together **14 charges** drawn from at least **seven** different **Old Testament passages**:

**This compilation is Paul’s own creation.** It is thoughtfully and logically constructed and intended to draw this portion of his argument to a close.

So let’s look at the first six charges against all mankind:

1. There are **none righteous, no not one!** (this is the death nail of supposed self-righteousness).
2. **No one understands** (to grasp or to comprehend). There are none who understand their plight as well as their need.
3. **No one seek after God!**
	1. Apart from God intervening in our life, we would keep running from God!
4. **All have turned aside.**
	1. The idea is to deviate from the correct path, to turn away from the path you should be taking.
5. **Together they have become worthless.**
	1. Good for nothing… So much for self-worth apart from Christ.
6. **No one does good, not even one.**
	1. Does good all the time. Paul has been clear, even the Gentiles at times do what is right because they have God’s law written on their hearts (2:14-15).

**These six points come from (at a minimum):**

*“Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.” (Ec 7:20 ESV)*

*“1 « To the choirmaster. Of David. » The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.” (Ps 14:1-3 ESV) or (Ps 53:1-3 ESV)*

**Paul’s aim: All men have the incurable illness called SIN.** All men and women are infected, and although each man is not bad as he could be, all men, apart from God working in their lives are going against God.

We talk about the theological concept of the **depravity of man.** ALL MEN, need an encounter with the divine, for all have sinned, all have turned aside.

**But Paul is not done!**

**Vs 13 –** The next three points:

1. **There throat is an open grave,**
	1. This is a shocking graphic! Picture a mass open grave pit (horrific) and that is mankind’s throat.
2. **They use their tongues to deceive**
	1. They use their tongues that were created by God to praise him (Jam 3:3-10), to deceive and spread lies.
	2. This deceitful speech, has as a root inner corruption
3. **The poisonous venom of an asp (or cobra) is** **under their lips**

If the idea is a cobra, then picture how a spitting cobra spits venom. These are GRAPHIC!

These points are all taken from the Psalms **(two Psalms of David):**

*“8 Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. 9 For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.” (Ps 5:8-9 ESV)*

*“1 « To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. » Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, 2 who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually. 3 They make their tongue sharp as a serpent’s, and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah” (Ps 140:1-3 ESV)*

**Imagine the picture here:** Their throat is an “open grave.” I am not sure our modern sensitivities can appreciate how utterly nasty and horrific and open grave would be, what it would look like, what it would smell like. Our tongues are used to deceive, under our lips the most aggressive toxin know to man, a deadly poison!

We use their tongue to deceive. Men and women by nature are liars. You do not need to teach a child how to lie. They seem to somehow know that. **You need to invest energy in teaching them to tell the truth!**

**But Paul is not done yet!**

**Vs 14 – 10)** Their **mouths** are **full of curses and bitterness**

*“****3*** *For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.* ***4*** *In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."* ***5*** *His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them.* ***6*** *He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."* ***7*** *His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.” (Ps 10:3-7 ESV)*

**Vs 15-17 –** 11)Their **feet** are swift to shed blood

12) In their **paths** (metaphorical travels) are ruin and misery

1. They are not following the way of peace

Here Paul grabs some, of the principles taught in Isaiah 59:1-8:

*“1 Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. 4 No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. 5 They hatch adders’ eggs; they weave the spider’s web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched. 6 Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. 7 Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. 8 The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.” (Isa 59:1-8 ESV)*

**Vs 18** – 14) **Culminates In:** There is no fear of God **before their eyes**!

This is the start of **Psalm 36 (A Psalm of David)** and the final damning charge:

*“« To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the LORD. » Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.” (Ps 36:1 ESV)*

**Here it is, all mankind, Godless analysis on our condition!**

1. There are none righteous, no not one!
2. No one understands
3. No one seek after God
4. All have turned aside
5. Together they have become worthless
6. No one does good, not even one
7. There throat is an open grave…
8. They use their tongues to deceive
9. The poisonous venom of an asp is under their lips
10. Their mouths are full of curses and bitterness
11. Their feet are swift to shed blood
12. In their paths are ruin and misery
13. They are not following the way of peace
14. Culminates In: There is no fear of God before their eyes!

**APPLICATION:** This is you and I apart from Christ. Paul now drops the microphone, the sin problem is universal. Being provided with God’s law and breaking it only highlights the guilt! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.***

**Here Paul provides four reasons, why God provided man with the law and one thing that is not the purpose of the law.**

**The five items or reasons:**

1. To show **man’s guilt and depravity** Vs 19:
2. To show that all men (with or without the written law) **are accountable to God** Vs 19b.
3. The Negative – **Not for this reason** in Vs 20 - **For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight…**
	1. The law was not given so that you might be saved. It cannot do that.
	2. If it could, Jesus did not need to come and die for our sins.
4. To cause man to look for **another answer** to their horrible plight (Vs 20).
	1. The moment a person understands this they will abandon self-righteousness, for it will not accomplish justification.
5. It brings an **understanding of what sin is** Vs 20b.
	1. We could say it shows God’s righteous standard!

**The Jew completely missed these points and so does every legalistic and/or, self-righteous person regardless of religious stripe!**

Here this loud and clear. If you hear nothing else today: By our obedience to whatever, the law, the ten commandments, or their summation in the great commandment… **By the works of the law, no human being will be justified in God’s sight!**

**The Greek word translated justified is** **δικαιόω** (dikaioo),it means to **declare righteous**, to **render righteous**, to **exhibit as right** before God.

**Paul has used the rigor of the law, to prove that the law (written on stone or on man’s heart) can only excuse or condemn, it cannot save.**

Paul, is about to say something **amazing**, something **surprising**, something **shocking**, something we touched on in the middle of chapter 1.

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**What started in chapter 1:18:**

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” (Ro 1:18 ESV)*

**It culminated in 3:20:** *“*

*For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Ro 3:20 ESV)*

***21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it —  22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

Here we go… We have spent weeks looking at the problem. We all have a terminal condition called SIN! **Starting here and moving forward, Paul begins to outline the remedy.**

**Vs 21- But now,** following the cross and ever since, **BUT NOW>>>**

**But now… The righteousness of God.**

As we said weeks ago, the genitive **“of God”** can mean that which **belongs to God** or **that which comes from God.** The context is how you determine which one Paul is talking about.

The Greek word **φανερόω (phaneroo)** means to **make visible**, to take that which was hidden or unknown and **make plain**, to **reveal**, to **declare**, or to **manifest**.

**But now**, **the righteousness of God** is **made visible**, it is **revealed**, **apart from the law**.

But notice at the end of verse 21: ***although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it —***

So Paul is saying, but now, a righteousness of God is revealed, apart from the law, that was witnessed to throughout the Old Testament (Law and prophets).

**Vs 22 - *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:***

Once faith is brought into the equation, it becomes crystal clear that the **righteousness of God** that Paul has in mind is a righteousness that flows from God.

**Luther in his commentary on Romans:** *“St. Augustine writes in the ninth chapter of his book concerning the Spirit and the Letter: He does not speak of the righteousness of God, by which God is righteous, but of that with which He clothes a person when He justifies the ungodly.”*

**Geoffrey Wilson:** *“Man is put into possession of a divine righteousness through (dia) the instrumentality of faith. The preposition used shows that faith is not a meritorious work; it is simply the hand that lays hold of the merits of Another. Here for the first time in the epistle, Paul directly relates the righteousness f God with the redemptive achievement of Christ.”*

**Frank Thielman:** *“…the righteousness of God is the righteousness that comes to the believers from God through God’s justifying action. The righteousness of God is God’s judicial release of the believer from any punishment, and that judicial acquittal now belongs to the believer as a gift from God”*

**Rich Turner:** *“There is a righteousness that flows from God and it can become ours, through faith in the person and work of Jesus the Messiah. This gift is for all and to all who believe (Jew and Gentile) for there is no distinction, they all are equally condemned! With this righteousness comes acquittal of our sins and God’s justifying activity on our behalf!”*

**What Paul is saying is groundbreaking, earth shattering, and Jewish mind melting!**

**Here is the remedy: Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ to secure a right standing before God. In fact, it secures the righteousness of God!**

This is important, the Old Testament, written principally to the Israelites, bears witness to the promised coming Messiah, and the righteousness of God that would flow from Him, by faith, to His people!

**Vs 23 -** Paul, wants to make sure we understand! **This is the ultimate problem and why all Jews and Gentiles stood condemned and why God’s remedy is so incredible!**

All have sinned, none are exempt, and apart from a gift of perfect righteousness man is without hope!

**Vs 24 -** In verse 20 Paul told them and us that **none were justified by the works of the law.** If you remember I said, t**he Greek word translated justified is** **δικαιόω** (dikaioo),it means to **declare righteousness**, to **render righteous**, to **exhibited as right before God**.

**Notice here we are told the opposite. None justified by law, but all justified who place faith in Jesus Christ…. By GRACE!**

**By faith, you and are I are justified by God’s grace!** The Greek word for grace, is **χάρις** (charis), the idea is that it is not based on merit, it is not based on what you did or will do.

**GRACE as an acronym: God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense**

You and I are justified, by grace, as a free gift. The Greek word translated gift is: **δωρεάν** (dorean), it means a **gift that is without cause. We have been justified, by grace (unmerited favor) as a gift!**

**You are justified by grace, the “free” gift of God!**

*“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:8-10 ESV)*

*“1« A Maskil of David. » Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” (Ps 32:1-2 ESV)*

**So a person who places faith in Jesus is declared and made right before God, through faith, by grace, a free gift, through or by διά** (dia), the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

By the deliverance, by the payment that effects the releasing of the prisoner, by the redemption that is in the Messiah Jesus!

**Vs 25 -** God put Jesus forward, God placed Jesus, God appointed Jesus for the purpose, to serve as a **propitiation**…

The Greek word is: **ἱλαστήριον (hilasterion),** it means to **appease**, to **expiate**, this Greek word is used in one other verse in the New Testament:

*“2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.” (Heb 9:2-5 ESV)*

It was Jesus, shedding his life’s blood for us, when we procure by faith, **that appeases God’s wrath**, that **accomplishes expiation of our sins**!

The Greek word **ἱλαστήριον (hilasterion),** formed from two common elements in the Greek.

The stem **ἵλεως** refers to **appeasement** and**/**or **reconciliation** and the suffix that refers to a **place where something happens** or a **place where work is done**.

**This word means a place where, or an instrument through which forgiveness, atonement and reconciliation happens.** It is likely that when Paul used this term, he intended to compare Jesus at the time of his death, to the “mercy seat”, the place where God met with Moses as the people’s representative. It was the place where God appeared on the Day of Atonement to Aaron and subsequent High Priests. When the High Priest sprinkled the blood of the goat that was slain on the mercy seat, while they sent out the scapegoat into the wilderness (Lev 16:2, 13-15).

**As the mercy seat had served as the place where God revealed himself to His people. Paul is telling his readers that God, has set forth Jesus, as the ultimate mercy seat, where propitiation and expiation (appeasement of wrath and removal of guilt) were accomplished through the shedding of HIS blood!**

**Vs 25b –** Here Paul tells us that this is how God passed over Old Testament saints sins. This is how He passed over David’s sins. We will talk more about David next week.

Now here, we are not talking about righteousness that comes from God, but rather **God’s own righteousness.**

**The cross shows how God could forgive David of multiple capital offenses and still remain just and holy.** God, passed over David’s sins, based on David’s faith and trust in Him and credited them to the Messiah.

**Although the Old Testament saints may not have fully understood, the Old Testament saints were trusting in the finished work of the Messiah for the ultimate forgiveness of their sins!**

**Vs 26 - The cross shows God’s righteousness** that He freely gives to man, and it shows how God can **righteous as he does so**.

**Thus God can be the “just” “justifier” of those who place faith in Jesus, for He (Jesus) paid the debt on their behalf!**

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***27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since God is one —  who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.” (Ro 3:1-31 ESV)***

**Vs 27 -** So where is boasting, gone, it is all about faith.

**Vs 28 –** We hold that a person is justified by faith, nothing to do with the law. This was one of the grand declarations of the reformation: **Sola fide!**

**Vs 29 – Yes, one God and it is all about justification by faith.**

**Vs 30 - *Since God is one - who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.***

***Can I remind you:*** *“For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.” (Ro 2:12 ESV)*

Just as the problem was universal, so too is the remedy!

**Vs 31 – The law still serves all of it key principles, we do not overthrow the law.**

The Greek word means to destroy, to render idle, to annul, to abolish, to overthrow.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Rather, the law maintains its perfect standard and you are I are acquitted of all wrongdoing based on imputation of Jesus’s perfect righteousness.

**The law remains inflexible and the standard of God’s righteousness! Faith, upholds the law!**

Sin is the universal problem and **justification** by **grace alone**, through **faith alone**, in **Jesus Christ alone** is the universal solution!

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