

Romans 3:19-26

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be justified in His sight by works of the law. For the law merely brings awareness of sin.

²¹But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, as attested by the Law and the Prophets. ²²And this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no distinction, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

²⁵God presented Him propitiation in His blood through faith, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance He had passed over the sins committed beforehand. ²⁶He did this to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and to justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

Berean Study Bible

1

God's got this sorted. Romans 3:19-26

God's Law. 3:19-20

What the Law can't do. 20a

What the Law can do. 20b

God's Righteousness. 3:21-24

Righteousness through whom. 22

Righteousness through what. 24

God's Salvation. 3:25-26

Salvation through blood/sacrifice. 25

Salvation through faith. 25-26

2

God's way forward. Romans 3:19-26

Read the warning signs. 3:19-20

God's Law applies to everyone. 19

God's Law condemns everyone. 20

Choose the right road. 3:21-24

God's Law does not give righteousness. 21

Faith in Jesus not give righteousness. 22

God's grace in Jesus gives justification. 23-24

Continue in the right direction. 3:25-26
Righteousness requires justice. 25
Righteousness requires faith. 26

3

God's got a purpose. Romans 3:19-26

The purpose of God's Law. 3:19-20
God's Law holds me accountable for my sin.
God's Law can do nothing about my sin.

The purpose of God's righteousness. 3:21-24
God's righteousness is my path with faith.
God's righteousness is my path with grace.

The purpose of God's Son. 3:25-26
God's Son takes away my sin by His crucifixion.
God's Son gives eternal life by His resurrection.

4

Bad news, and good news. Romans 3:19-26

My problem. 3:19-20
I've broken God's Law. 19
I'm aware of God's Law. 20

My possibility. 3:21-24
I can have faith in Jesus. 21-22
I can have salvation through Jesus. 23-24

My propitiation. 3:25-26
God deals with my sin in Jesus. 25
God gives me salvation in Jesus. 26

5

Here's something better. Romans 3:19-26

Awareness of sin. 3:19-20
God's Law tells me I am a sinner.
God's Law can do nothing about my sin.

Alternative to sin. 3:21-24
Righteousness is available through faith.
Righteousness is available through grace.

Accountability for sin. 3:25-26

Jesus takes responsibility for my sin.

I take responsibility for Jesus' righteousness.

6

Order in the court of eternal justice. Romans 3:19-26

Eternal judgement. 3:19-20

Everyone is actually guilty.

Everyone is proved guilty.

Eternal justice. 3: 21-24

God's plan does what God's Law can't do.

God's grace does what God's Son achieved.

Eternal justification. 3:25-26

I am justified by the blood of Jesus.

I am justified by my faith in Jesus.

7

What you will hear, if you listen to God. Romans 3:19-26

What God once said. 3:19-20 "whatever the law says"

You are accountable for sin. 19b "the whole world held accountable to God"

You are guilty of sin. 20a "no one will be justified by the Law"

You are aware of sin. 20b "the law merely brings awareness of sin"

What God then said. 3:21-24 "as attested by the Law and the Prophets"

Righteousness is available. 21a "the righteousness of God has been revealed"

Righteousness is accessible. 22a "righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ"

Righteousness is receivable. 24a "justified freely by His grace"

What God now says. 3:25-26 "at the present time"

Salvation is complete. 25a "propitiation through faith in His blood"

Salvation is reliable. 26a "to demonstrate His righteousness"

Salvation is legitimate. 26b "to be just and to justify"

8

Romans 3:19-26

God's gift to you is through your faith. 3:19-22a

Good is not good enough. 20a "one will be justified by works"

The Standard proves you are not good enough. 20b "The Law brings awareness..."

Trusting Jesus is the only option. 22a "righteousness from God comes through faith"

God's gift to you is through His grace. 3:22b-25a

Everyone needs God's grace. 23 "all have sinned and fall short"

God's grace comes through Christ. 24 "grace thru' the redemption that is in Christ"

God's grace is the propitiation in Christ's blood. 25 "the propitiation through faith..."

God's gift to you is through His justice. 3:25b-26

God is patient with you. 25 "in His forbearance He had passed over the sins"

God is Justice. 26 "so as to be just"

God treats you justly. 26b "justify the one who has faith in Jesus"

9

I've got a problem, but here is the solution. Romans 3:19-26

The solution is absolutely essential. 3:19-20

God's Law points to everyone's problem. 19 "whole world held accountable"

God's Law points to my own problem. 20 "no one will be justified by..."

The solution is made public. 3:21-22

The solution is in God's Word. 21 "Righteousness revealed in [Scripture]"

The solution is in God's Son. 22 "Righteousness through faith in Christ Jesus"

The solution is universal. 3:22-23

Anyone can be saved. 22b "to all who believe [have faith]"

Everyone needs to be saved. 23 "all have sinned and fall short"

The solution is cost-free. 3:24

The gift is free to me. 24a "justified freely by His grace"

The gift is paid for. 24 b "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"

The solution is verifiable. 3:25

Salvation is historical. 25a "propitiation through faith in His blood"

Salvation is logical. 25 "to demonstrate His righteousness"

The solution solves the problem. 3:25-26

God deals with everyone's sin. 25b "sins committed beforehand"

God deals with my sin. 26a "demonstrate His righteousness at the present time"

The solution is fair. 3:26b

Justice is enacted. 26b "so as to be just"

Justice is satisfied. 26b "justify the one who has faith in Jesus"

10

Yes, God accepts you, but... Romans 3:19-26

God accepts you through Faith. 3:19-22

My heart accepts justice. 20-21 "awareness... revealed"

My head receives justice. 22 "faith in Jesus... all who believe"

God accepts you through Grace. 3:23-25

My efforts are unacceptable. 23 “fall short”

My efforts are replaceable. 24 “grace through... Christ”

God accepts you through Justice. 3:25-26

The penalty has been paid. 25 “propitiation... His blood”

My penalty has been transferred. 26 “justice... justify... faith”

Other possible titles

Can you afford the high cost of salvation?

Condemnation and solution

How can it be right to let bad people go free?

Giving gifts to the undeserving!

The verdict of the court

What to do when God is not fair

Progress along the right road

When the right road is required

Righteousness Road. Turn here.

Greek lexicon, cross-references, quotes and illustrations

Berlin Air Lift (1948–1949)

Allies were trapped in West Berlin, blockaded by Soviet troops. (cf we are trapped by sin)

But air transport brought in everything they needed. (cf Jesus proves all we need)

Now we **know** that whatever the Law says, 19a

There are two very different Greek words that are both translated into English as “know”.

- The first of these is γινώσκω [Strong's 1097] (pronounced ghin-occe-ko) meaning experientially know, functional working knowledge gleaned from first-hand (personal) experience, connecting theory to application, "application-knowledge," gained in a direct relationship.
- The other word is οἶδα [Strong's 1492] (pronounced oi-da) be aware, behold, consider, perceive, know, remember, appreciate. Properly, to see with one's physical eyes. This is akin to the expressions: "I see what you mean", or "I see what you are saying." This knowledge is in no way at all connected with IQ. This knowledge is not related to skills or training. This knowledge is not learned from a book. This knowledge is what we all know in our heart of hearts, without having to be taught.

The verb that is used here in Romans 3:19a is οἶδα. Hence, this knowledge of God's Law is intrinsic within each and every one of us. This knowledge is part of our DNA. This reinforces

the earlier statement, ¹⁴Indeed, those who do not have the Law, do by nature what the Law requires... ¹⁵the requirements of the Law are written on their hearts. Romans 2:14a, 15a

The danger of intrinsic knowledge is you can lose it by training yourself out of it. Jesus complained, "This people's **heart has become calloused**; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." Matthew 13:15

On another occasion, "Jesus looked around at them with anger and sorrow at their **hardness of heart**." Mark 3:5

Already Romans has warned, "Because of your **hard and unrepentant heart**, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the Day of Wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed." Romans 2:5

Music and songs

Songs about righteousness. "the righteousness of God has been revealed" 21, 25, 26

And can it be that I should gain... clothed in righteousness divine, H 377

Hosanna... Here to reign in righteousness (M W Smith) Ot 110

In Christ alone... This gift of love and righteousness, Ot 4

In the likeness of You... Resurrected by Your righteousness (Petra)

Live for the Kingdom... Seeking His righteousness, Ot 15

My heart is filled with thankfulness... His law of righteousness (Getty), Ot 97

My hope is built on... Jesus' blood and righteousness, H 717

Nothing but the blood... This is all my righteousness, H 705

Now is the time... risen in His righteousness (Bullock)

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, And His righteousness, SiS 96

Sing unto the Lord a new song... glory and righteousness, Ot 37

The earth is the Lord's... the ones who know His righteousness (Batstone)

This Kingdom... Jesus, God's righteousness revealed, Ot 47

We rejoice in the grace of God... clothed us with His righteousness (Cook)

You rescued me... A life transformed in righteousness, (Bullock) Ot 45

Songs about faith. "faith in Jesus" 22. "faith in His blood" 25. "faith in Jesus" 26

At the cross | I'm not ashamed... ^{ch}It was there by faith I received my sight, H 732

Be bold! Be strong! | I'm walking in faith and victory, SiS 465

Be still, for the presence of the Lord | ³in faith receive from Him. 527

By faith we see the hand of God (Getty)

Could that faith you've been holding... There's gonna be a better day

Everything that has breath | ¹Portioned by faith, we're destined to win. Ot 49

God is good all the time | ^{br}And through the eyes of faith (Don Moen)

God on the mountain | ²That's where your faith is really put to the test, Ot 121

Have faith in God (Bullock)

He's everything to me | ³Till by faith I met Him face to face, Ot 22

Humble yourself | ³By putting your faith and trust in the Lord, Ot 127

I walk by faith, Ot 32
Knowing You, Jesus | To possess by faith what I could not earn (Kendrick)
Looking for the city | ¹But with my new eyes of faith (Tunney), Ot 106
My faith has found a resting place, H 669
O church arise | ¹With shield of faith and belt of truth, Ot 68
Oh Lord you lead me... Have faith in God (Bullock), Ot 80
Out on a limb | ^{1, 2}Put some action in your faith (S W Brown)
Passin' the faith along to my brother
Rejoice, Rejoice, Christ is in you | ¹By faith shall be made possible.
Speak, O Lord | ¹In our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Ot 55
Teach me Thy way | ¹More by faith, less by sight, C 262 (536)
The Church's one foundation | ²One Lord, one faith, one birth. H 289
There is a fountain | ⁵E'er since by faith I saw the stream, H 694
Therefore, being justified by faith, SiS 29
There's an ember, deep within me... Set my faith on fire
We are His people | ^{ch}By grace, we are saved through faith, Ot 6
We who shunned the hand that fed us... Now by faith
Yield not to temptation | ³Through faith we will conquer, H 749

Songs about justification. "justified freely by His grace" 24

Heaven came down... justified fully thru Calvary's love, CWH 46
One day when Heaven was filled... | ^{ch}rising He justified freely forever, H 756
Therefore being justified by faith, SiS 29
This Kingdom | ¹Now glorified. Now justified, Ot 47

Songs about the blood of Christ. "faith in His blood" 25

Above all else | ²Through the blood of Jesus, victorious we stand, TS3-1641
Amazing love | My Lord, what love is this... ²But oh, the blood He shed, 160
At the cross | ²But in the blood of Christ that flowed (Getty)
Awesome God | ²It wasn't for no reason That He shed His blood, Ot 50
Before the throne of God above | ³My soul is purchased with His blood, TS 6
Blessed assurance | Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. H 687
Everybody ought to know | ²And His blood makes white as snow, HCJ 43
Forgiven | Forgiven and sheltered by His blood (David Meece)
Go forth in His name | ¹Saved and redeemed by His blood, 72
Have you been to Jesus... are you washed in the blood of the Lamb, H 640
His mercy is more | ³His blood was the payment, (Getty)
I am covered over | ¹with the precious blood of Jesus, 235
I know who holds tomorrow | ³And I'm covered with His blood. CWH 84
In Christ alone | ⁶Bought with the precious blood of Christ, Ot 4
In Love for Me | ²This is My blood Poured out for you, SiS 284
It's about the cross | It's about how every drop of blood that flowed, Ot 54
It's Your blood | ...that cleanses me ...that gives me life ...that took my place, SiS 566
Just as I am | ¹But that Thy blood was shed for me, H 392

Lamb of God | ^{ch}Oh, wash me in His precious blood (Twila Paris)
 My faith has found a resting place | ³Salvation through His blood. H 669
 My hope is built | ¹nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness, H 717, Ot 26
 My Redeemer lives | ¹His blood has covered my sins, MiS 13
 Now I belong to Jesus | ³His precious blood, He came to redeem, CWH 40
 O how I love Jesus | ²It tells me of His precious blood, CWH 20
 Old rugged cross | ³stained with blood so divine, H 678
 Only by grace | ¹But by the blood of the Lamb. 408
 Our God reigns | ⁴His blood ran down upon the ground like pouring rain, SiS 201
 Power of the cross | ²Crowning Your bloodstained brow. Ot 62
 See Him coming | ²the One who freed us From all our sins by His blood, Ot 5
 Shine Jesus shine | ³By the blood I may enter Your brightness, SiS 580
 The battle belongs to the Lord | ²a standard: the power of His blood, SiS 630
 The Church's one foundation | ¹With His own blood He bought her, H 289
 The family of God | ¹washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! (Gaither)
 There is a fountain filled with blood, H 694
 Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus | ²Just to trust His cleansing blood, H 701
 Victory in Jesus | ¹His precious blood's atoning... ^{ch}His redeeming blood, CWH 60
 We are His people | ³Saved by the blood of Jesus, Ot 6
 What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus, H 705
 Worthy of all praise | ²The price was your blood. Ot 1
 Would you be free from your burden of sin, ^{ch}There's power in the blood, H 715
 You rescued me | ⁴Your blood poured out for me, (Bullock) Ot 45

Songs about propitiation. "God presented Him as propitiation (atoning sacrifice)" 25
 Amazing love | My Lord, what love is this... ^{ch}My debt He pays, and my death... 160
 At the cross | ¹costly wounds of love... ⁵my ransom paid, (Getty)
 Christ has for sin atonement made. What a wonderful Saviour, H 631
 Consider Christ | ¹That He should take the penalty for me. Ot 2
 He paid a debt He did not owe, Ot 120
 How deep the Father's Love for us | ³His wounds have paid my ransom. TS 185
 I believe in Jesus | ¹I believe He paid for us all, Ot 60
 In Christ alone | ⁴The wrath of God was satisfied, Ot 4
 To God be the glory | ¹Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, H 741
 Victory in Jesus | ¹His precious blood's atoning... ^{ch}His redeeming blood, CWH 60
 Worthy is the Lamb | ¹Thank You for the price You paid, 939
 Worthy of all praise | ²wonderfully bought us, paid for us dearly, The price... Ot1

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion.

1. Why is everyone accountable to God, 19, rather than to other people, society, or to ourselves?
2. God's Law shows we are all sinners, and the Law cannot help us improve, 19-20. How is this both good news and bad news?

3. Give an example of how the Old Testament validates the righteousness of God, 21?
 4. “There is no distinction...” 22b-23. How should the fact we are all sinners determine the way we see and treat others?
 5. Why is it difficult to accept the kindness of strangers? Why do some people find it difficult, or easy, to accept the kindness of God, 24?
 6. Why do we need both Grace, 24, and Faith, 25, for salvation?
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