

Monday, October 10, 2022 ◦ Romans 3:23–24

Questions from the Scripture text: What is non-different (the same) about what everyone has done (v23)? Against what purpose/duty has this sin fallen short? What did they put into this righteousness (v24)? By what, then, were they justified? Through what? In Whom is this redemption?

If even the works of the law can't justify us, how can we be righteous before God? Romans 3:23–24 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **in Jesus Christ, God has offered His own righteousness to sinners.**

Righteousness as big as God's glory. v23. It is God's glory against which we have sinned. It is that glory of which we have fallen short. Who can attain to a righteousness that great? Jesus can! His is the righteousness of God. His is the glory of God. And He is the righteousness that faith gets. Of course, then, if you have Him your righteousness is no less than the most eminent believer, and your righteousness if no more than the least believer. There is no difference!

Righteousness entirely by gift. v24. "freely" translates a word from the same root as "gift" in 5:16 and 5:17. It means that this being justified—this being counted righteous by the bestowal of a righteous status and state—is entirely by gift. Not only is no payment required; no payment can be given.

If there is any payment at all, then it was cease to be by grace (cf. 4:4). Grace is the supply of God for the lack of man—blessing for those who deserve only curse, strength for those who have only weakness, goodness for those from whose selves could come only badness. And the righteousness for us in the gospel is entirely by gift, entirely by grace.

Righteousness through redemption. v24. This justification is "through the redemption." The word means release, and particularly release by way of payment. This can be release from penalty or release from slavery. In this case, it is both. Jesus has paid a ransom, because the wrath of God is revealed against the unrighteousness of men.

Now (as we will see in v25), rather than consuming us, the wrath itself has been consumed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Now, rather than our being held in bondage under the control of our sin—as the law would rightly have demanded that we continue to be given up to a depraved mind—Christ Jesus has purchased our freedom that we instead might be under the ultimate control of His grace!

Righteousness that is in Christ Jesus. v24. Not only has our redemption been purchased for us by Christ Jesus, but that purchased redemption comes to us in the person of Christ Jesus. It is not as if it is transactionally handed over to us. No, it comes to us from our union with Him. Sinners are brought into Christ Jesus by believing in Him, and it is as they are in Him that they receive redemption.

It is in union with the God-Man that believers are redeemed from the wrath of God. It is in union with the God-Man that believers attain to the very glory of God Himself. It is in union with the God-Man that believers come to be counted righteous with the righteousness of God.

What righteousness can you have? How can't you get it? Whose is it? How can it come to be yours?

Sample prayer: Lord, even from Your holy and righteous and good commandments, we could not obtain righteousness. But, in the gospel You have revealed Your righteousness for all who believe! Grant that by Your power, we would have Your salvation, by Your righteousness, in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH435 "Not What My Hands Have Done"

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Romans. Chapter 3 verses 23 through 24. These are God's words for all. Have sinned and fall short of the glory of God being justified, freely by his grace through the redemption. That is in Christ, Jesus.

So far the reading of gods inspired and inherent word. Midweek meeting this week. We are and continuing to hear about the greatness of that righteousness of God. That is revealed in the gospel righteousness. That is as we heard the beginning of verse 21, apart from the law and in verse 22, through faith.

And then verse 22 through faith in Jesus Christ. And this righteousness, We continue now to hear in verse 23 is a righteousness. That is as big as God's glory for all have sinned and fallen short or falsehort of the glory of God. Remember, the wrath of God was revealed against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of men, who despite knowing God and his glory, have pushed down suppressed that truth and unrighteousness.

And although we knew God, we did not glorify Him or give him. Thanks This is the greatness of every single one of our sins. This is a greatness of our sin and our guilt that it is sin against and guiltiness concerning the glory of God itself. The glory of God himself, the infinite and eternal, and then changeable glory of God.

This is why there is no difference for those who are made, right? Just through faith in Jesus Christ, because we need an atonement. That is as big as God's glory. We need a righteousness. That is, as big as God's glory, which means there's nothing that we can produce, or that we can do or that we can contribute, or having been made righteousness that we could ever add to the greatness of that righteousness, which is required, which praise God, is the righteousness that has been revealed in the gospel that Jesus Christ is our righteousness.

We're going to go on the next week. Lord willing in verse 25 to consider what it says about the greatness of the glory of Jesus, that he is a propitiation and will think about think more about that when we get to it. But even before we get to it, now, in verse 23, we know that the righteousness, that is revealed in the gospel, that is offered to us, through faith, in Jesus, is a righteousness.

That is as big as the glory of God and we we therefore would shrink from any idea of trying to obtain our standing with God by how well we do or how well we intend to do or how sorry we are. Any idea of producing anything that is part of contributing to could be this righteousness.

Must just be dissolved annihilated. Before this wonderful fact that the righteousness that is offered us in the gospel of Jesus Christ is a righteousness that is as big as the glory of God as great as the glory of God. And yet this is what is offered to us For all.

Have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God being justified freely by his grace. So the first point is, that is righteousness as big as God's glory. The second is that it's a righteousness that is entirely by gift. And of course, it has to be. What can you do to participate in or add to, or God forbid?

The ridiculousness of the idea substitute for a righteousness that is as big as the glory of God. You and I cannot contribute to anything to something that has to be

that big and therefore it is a wonderful truth. And a necessary truth that the righteousness that we have the right standing that we have before.

God has to be entirely by gift entirely, freely entirely by his grace, which means that which he supplies precisely because we utterly lack it. And so often the word grace is used in terms of blessing and curse God-giving blessing to those who deserve only curts, and that is grace, but it is also God sustaining by his strength.

Those who have only weakness and we hear that use of the word and second Corinthians. 12, my grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect and weakness. It is true of life, and goodness. We have no life in ourselves. Jesus says all the life in himself and so there's no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us, the life that we live.

We live by faith in Jesus Christ who loves us and gave himself in us, and he says, to abide in him and that, apart from him, we can do nothing because we have no life in us. The reality, or the dynamic of grace is true about goodness. We have no goodness from ourselves, anything that good, anything that is good, in us.

Comes by the gift of God. And so, what do you have that? You have not received and if you have received it why do you both as if it is from you? So it that is entirely true. Therefore about our righteousness being justified, which means given a right standing before God made righteous before God be in justified freely, which means we contribute nothing by His grace, which means he contributes everything.

And so it's a righteousness that is entirely by gift. So it's righteousness as big as God's. Glory all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. His righteousness that is entirely by gift being justified freely by his grace and is the righteousness that is through the redemption through redemption.

So we did not pay anything for this righteousness. It was free for us but that does not mean that it was free. It did not doesn't mean that there was no cost. In fact, it has a righteousness that came by the paying of great cost by God. Adding creatureliness to himself which is already an infinite mind boggling cost he had screechiness to himself but he doesn't add any sort of creature.

He adds to himself the lowly creatureliness of a servant of a slave he's made under the law. Even as a man, he comes as a poor man. He comes as an embryo helpless baby of a poor couple. He lowers himself so greatly and then that is the beginning of his lowering himself because he is even going to partake in death, which is the wages of sin.

Although he had none and he's gonna partake and wrath, which is what sin deserves. Although he had no sin but for our sakes, God made him who knew no sin to be sin. So that we might become the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. And so this is the redemption price, the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is that price, which the apostle is pressing home to the Ephesian elders, in Acts chapter 20, when he's urging them, to take heed to themselves and to the flock of God among which the Holy Spirit, made them overseers, which God has bought with his own blood.

The idea that God has blood now is beyond our comprehension. And then the idea that that blood of God, there's what was spent to purchase what we received freely. As a gift, this right standing that we have before, God came at the purchase price of the blood of God that the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, it is a righteousness that is through redemption free to us but infinitely, incomprehensibly expensive costly. So it is a righteousness that is as big as God's glory, it is a righteousness that is entirely by gift. It's a righteousness through redemption, all of which are aspects of the fact that it is a righteousness, that is in Christ Jesus being justified, freely by His grace through the redemption.

That is in Christ Jesus. It's a righteousness that comes not merely according to a prescription or is the result of a transaction. So righteousness that comes in a person that as we consider all that we heard last week in verses 21 and 22 about the greatness of God's righteousness that He gives us in the gospel.

As we consider all that, we have just heard about the greatness of this righteousness that God gives us in the gospel that it is as big as God's glory that it comes to us entirely by gift that it doesn't come at no cost. But it comes at the infinite cost that it is a righteousness that is through redemption.

All of these things drive us to esteem and honor and adore and delight in the person of our Lord. Jesus Christ, because righteousness is not some sort of abstraction. It is not some quantity that you obtain from Jesus. It is something that has obtained in union with Jesus at bottom salvation, the gospel righteousness, that is all in a person and as the gospel of God, concerning His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

And so it's in him whenever you find yourself grasping at or feeling that you have lost a sense of the glory of God, or the grace of God, or the value of the redemption that is from God. The solution is not merely to rework through intellectually rework through the facts or the truths that we've been hearing.

The solution is to embrace the person of the Lord Jesus. And as you embrace him to remember all of these truths about Him who he is and what he has done. All of these truths about the Triune God who he is in particularly who he is to us in Christ and what he has done and particularly what he has done in Christ salvation, the gospel righteousness.

It's all about a person and whenever you are in need of renewal refreshment, spiritual reinvigoration. The the great thing to do the main thing to do is to embrace Christ himself and in that embracing of him to start bringing and marshaling all of these truths that, you know, from the Bible about what it means to do that.

And then let us come to him and ask him to help us by his Spirit.

Our Lord Father, Son. And Holy Spirit, we praise you and thank you. That it is particularly in you Lord, Jesus, that you have made us to know yourself that you have brought us near to yourself by whom. You have paid the price and giving yourself that you have redeemed, us and therefore reconciled us by your own blood, how he praise you that the righteousness that you have given us is, as great as your glory for it.

Is you and it is your own righteousness and so we pray. Lord that you would be helping us by your spirit. In this time of remaining sin and remaining fleshiness until our time in this world is done that your spirit would keep bringing us to fresh remembrance of you and fresh clinging to you and adoring of your glory and praising.

You apprehending you that you would keep making us that press on to lay hold of that for which you have laid. Hold of us. Oh, help us. Lord. We thank you and praise you. For all of this truth about your righteousness that you have given us to think about and just this short time and we pray that that truth would increase our appreciation of our knowledge of what is the hope of our calling, and what is the greatness of your love to us in Jesus Christ.

And what is the greatest greatness of that righteousness that you have given us in Jesus Christ? Oh, give us this help. We pray, even in his own name, the name of Jesus. Amen.