

Three Demonstrations in the Gospel that Drive Us to Christ for Righteousness

**Monday, October 17, 2022 ◻ Romans 3:25–26**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who set forth Whom (v25)? As what? By what? Through what is this propitiation applied? To demonstrate what? What attribute of God had necessitated this demonstration? What had He done in His forbearance? Which sins had He passed over? At what time did demonstration occur (v26)? What was demonstrated? What two things was He in this righteousness? Of whom?*

**What was being exhibited at the cross?** Romans 3:25–26 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **in Christ's fully atoning work, God displayed the greatness of His righteousness, the very righteousness that is accounted to those who believe in Jesus.**

The gospel is, in some respects, a matter of "Show and Tell." We read back in 1:17 that in it the righteousness of God is revealed. And then more recently in 3:21, we read that "now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed." In the two verses now before us, the Spirit emphasizes three aspects of God's glorious righteousness that is revealed and offered to us in the gospel: Christ Jesus, Propitiation, and Justness.

**Christ Jesus (v24) is the One Whom God "set forth as a propitiation."** This word means that Jesus has completely satisfied the wrath of God so that all that is left is the favor of God. He has made God entirely propitious toward all Who are in Him. The phrase "set forth" is borrowed from the language of the judicial trial and refers to exhibiting something as evidence. In this case, it is Christ Who is exhibited as a propitiation.

But what does His propitiating demonstrate about Him? That He is as valuable as the glory of God. It is the glory of God against which man has sinned in unrighteousness and ungodliness. And it is this sin against God's glory against which His wrath has been revealed (v18)? What could atone for offense that is as great as the glory of God? The answer is that Christ Jesus can. By His *full atonement* (propitiation), Christ Jesus is exhibited to be as glorious as God. For He is, of course, God.

**Propitiation itself is a display of God's righteousness because He had exercised forbearance** and not poured out His wrath against the sins of believers previously committed. But those who had believed ("through faith," v25) have now been fully atoned for by Jesus's blood. God has not compromised His justice at all. The righteousness of God that we get in the gospel is an absolute, perfect, uncompromised righteousness.

**Finally, God demonstrates His righteousness not only with respect to past believers but also at the present time.** When one believes in Jesus now, he knows that God is just, for He has demanded and executed already full punishment of sin. A believer knows that this justice means that, apart from Christ, God would display that justness by punishing Him forever in Hell. But a believer also knows that the justness of God is also demonstrated by declaring to be righteous whoever has faith in Jesus. And it is this very justness of God, this very righteousness of God, that is counted as one's own when he believes in Jesus.

How do you respond, in your life, to the glory of Jesus? How does God's righteousness at the cross encourage you about your standing before Him? Who should *not* be encouraged by it?

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for displaying Christ, Your uncompromised justness at the cross, and Your justness in justifying those who believe in Christ. Grant that we would do so and thus know ourselves to be reckoned as having Your perfect righteousness, which we ask in Christ's own Name, AMEN!*

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

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Romans chapter 3 verse 25 and 26. These are God's words whom God set forth as a propitiation by his blood through faith to demonstrate his righteousness. Because in his forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed to demonstrate at the present time. His righteousness that he might be.

Just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus So far, the reading of God's inspired and an errant worked. So we have three rate revealing words or displaying words First in verse 25. We have the phrase set forth or a or exhibited. And then again, in verse 25, we have to demonstrate his righteousness and then in verse 26, to demonstrate at the present time and it's not surprising that we have three words that talk about God, revealing things, because all the way back in chapter 1 and verse 16 and 17, when he said that the Gospels, the power of God for salvation, he said that the way that God demonstrates His power or exercises, his power to save us through the gospel, is by revealing to us as righteousness for us for in it is revealed the righteousness of God.

And then he talked for a couple chapters about how the wrath of God was already revealed against all the unrighteousness and ungodliness of men. And he's returned again to the revealing of the righteousness of God in verse 21 of this chapter. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law's revealed.

And so we've been hearing for several weeks first in 21 and 22. And then in 23 and 24. And now in 25 and 26 about what sort of righteousness, this is, that is being revealed. And now, there is an emphasis on three revealings or three displayings or demonstrating or exhibiting here in the two versus that are before us.

And the first thing that God exhibits is actually a person, it is Christ Jesus. So we come out of verse 24 where he said through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. And our verse starts with whom God exhibited whom God set forth. And he uses language here, that belongs to a trial, or a dispute of, or a courtroom to use that language, which, I'm not sure if they had court rooms, but it's the language of exhibiting evidence and he displays Jesus.

When he displays him as a propitiation by his blood. In other word for pronunciation is important. The word for pitiation describes the making of God entirely propitious or entirely favorable towards us. If you.

I guess when I was a child I thought that maybe it was built out of the words pro and pity like it made God merciful towards us. Um, that's just an accident of English spelling. But propitious means favorable, and what it means is that Jesus has absorbed entirely. Every last particle of the wrath of God.

He is the one who has consumed the wrath of God On anyone else. The wrath of God consumes us but Jesus is so great that he is able to in himself, consume the wrath of God itself which is an amazing thing because the wrath of God was against all unrighteousness.

And ungodlyness of men, her fallen short of the glory of God who could see the truth of God's glory, and the things that are made, and who knew the truth and reality of God's glory in our own hearts. But although we knew him as God, we did not glorify him or give.

Thanks, no. We suppress the truth, and unrighteousness. And we exchanged, the glory of God, the in for the glory of the Creator for the created thing. And so what

we needed if the wrath of God was going to be consumed, was someone who is as great as the glory of God.

Which of course there is nobody who is as great as a glory of God only God as as glorious, He is completely transcendent. And so when it says that Jesus is exhibited, that's one of the great things in the Gospel is that the Sun is displayed. When we see that God in His justice accepts Christ and his atonement for the full turning away of his wrath from our sin.

We see that the gospel is saying to us, that Jesus is at least as glorious as God is. And of course, he can't be more glorious than God is because God only has the one, the one glory, the the father, the son, and the spirit are the same and substance equal empowering glory, but by Jesus as being accepted as a propitiation, it displays that he is, at least as glorious as God is.

Which of course, is a display that he is God, But this is one of the precious things to us in the gospel is that Christ himself is exhibited in the gospel, the divine glory of the one who loves us, and the one whom, our soul loves is displayed in the gospel.

So we love the gospel for its display of the glory of our Creator of our Redeemer of our King of the one who has loved us and whom our heart loves. We love the gospel for the display of His glory And so he's the first thing that has been set forth but he's also been set forth as this propitiation which is a demonstration of his righteousness.

So then God set forth as a propitiation by his blood through faith to demonstrate his righteousness. Because in his forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed. There were people who died and rather than going to hell. They were gathered to their fathers, they fall asleep.

They rest, and they went to what is sometimes called. Abraham's bosom, They did not perish. How could God not only bear patiently with the wicked in this world? But then not punish sinners who died and they didn't go to hell. Well, the answer is they had believed in Jesus Christ, they had hoped in the promised one.

The seed of the woman who had crushed the serpent's head, the seed of Abraham in whom all the families of the earth would be blessed. The Son of David. Who is the forever king? They had hoped in Jesus and now the one in whom they hoped has come, and he has shed his blood on the cross, and it has been revealed that he who was the seed of the, who is the seat of the woman and the seed of Abraham and the son of David.

And so forth is also God, the Son himself. And so God was right not to cast any of them into hell, because the Jesus in whom they had believed prospectively. As God, the Son who became a man and has a toned by his blood. And so, that's the next thing that's just like the first thing.

That's, displayed is Jesus himself in the propitiation. The second thing that's displayed is that God has been righteous all along to forgive sinners. And if God has been righteous all along to forgive sinners, who hoped in the promised Christ, without knowing all of the details necessarily about who he is and what he would do then how much more verse 26.

The last thing is demonstrated to demonstrate at the present time, his righteousness that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. And so we look and we say, look at the display of Jesus, He is the glorious Son of God. And yet he has become a man and shed his blood for sinners.

Look at the display that God was righteous to forgive. Even those who in former times, had hoped in this Christ and because of who this, Jesus turns out to be, and what this Jesus turns out to do, God was righteous to forgive them and to declare them righteous in his sight and then we could say.

So surely God is both righteous and makes me righteous when I believe in Jesus. I can know that if I believe in Jesus Christ, if I am at the end of verse 26th year, one who has faith in Jesus, God will be righteous to count me righteous. He will be just and the justifier.

And so as you hear the gospel you hear about who Jesus is and you hear the gospel, you hear that. God has not just displayed who Jesus says, but to display that he was righteous to be forgiving. People who believed like Abraham believed God and it was credited to him is righteous righteousness, then you are so encouraged and affirmed to know if I believe in Jesus, God will be righteous to count me righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

Through His displaying, the justness of his justifying us in the gospel is making us righteous in the gospel. So three, wonderful things that are displayed in the gospel. According to the two past, two verses before us today, and Lord willing. In the midweek meeting this week Christ, Jesus, displayed the righteousness of God to forgive, or pass over forbear with the sins that were previously committed by those who believed out prospectively in Jesus.

And then the certainty that the righteous God will count us as righteous if we believe in. Jesus Christ, Praise God. Whatever we have done for. We have a propitiation that is as big as God. Let's pray. Lord, we thank you for this part of your word. We thank you for your gospel.

We think you for these three wonderful displays or exhibits that we have in. Just these two verses. We pray that you would make us to hate sin. Let that one we see and know the greatness of our guilt and the greatness of your wrath against the sin that we commit that you would make us to remember.

And embrace the wonderful things that you have displayed about Christ and His sacrifice that George righteousness to justify us so that we would embrace him and that we would be justified and you would be just in doing. So you display your just justness in doing so granted to God as an ongoing reality in our life by the work of your spirit for.

We ask it in Jesus name, Amen.