

Romans 3:21
The Essence of Gospel Revelation

But now the righteousness of God has been
manifested...

The "But now" statement signals:

1. The turning point in Romans chapter 3
2. The turning point in the book of Romans
3. The turning point of the whole Bible
4. The turning point of redemptive history

Righteousness describes

1. God's character - God is righteous
2. God's standard - God's standard is righteous
3. God's actions - Everything that God does is righteous

The righteousness of God reveals three things:

1. God's righteous demands
2. God's judging righteousness
3. God's saving righteousness

Romans 3:21-26

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law...

The key theme of the book of Romans is the gospel

Paul *begins* his epistle to the Romans with the gospel (1:1).

He *finishes* his letter to the Romans with the gospel (16:26).

He is eager to *preach* the gospel to those who are in Rome (1:15).

He is not ashamed of the gospel for it alone is the power of God for salvation for all who believe (1:16).

And in the gospel "the righteousness of God" is revealed (1:17).

What is *the law* here that Paul has in mind?

What *law* is Paul talking about here? Is it “the law of Moses” or is it “the works of the law” from verse 20?

The word “law” is probably shorthand for “**works of the law**” from verse 20. Paul draws on the argument from 1:18-3:20 and implies that righteousness can’t be secured from the law **because of human disobedience**. At the same time, the role of the **Mosaic Covenant** in redemptive history is also in view, since [the Greek phrase] “*apart from the law*” modifies [the Greek phrase] “*has been manifested*.” **Righteousness can’t be attained via the Old Covenant, since it has now passed away with the coming of Christ.**

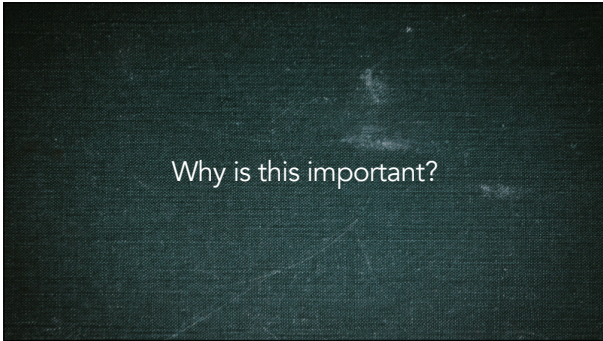
- Thomas Schreiner

2 Timothy 1:8-12

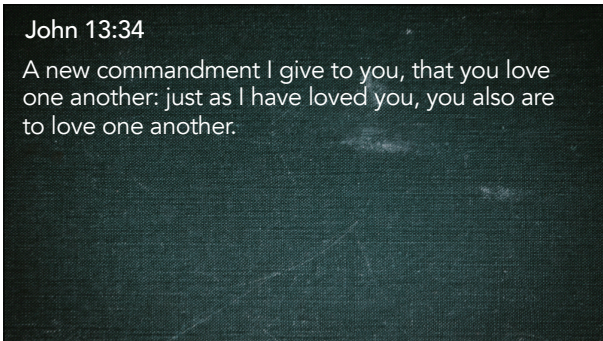
2 Corinthians 3:7-11

Galatians 3:15-4:7

But now (in redemptive history) the [saving] righteousness of God [which is revealed in the gospel (1:16-17)] has been manifested (made known/ clearly revealed) apart from [works of] the law (because of our disobedience) and apart from the [Mosaic Covenant] (because the Old Covenant has been fulfilled in Christ and has now passed away).

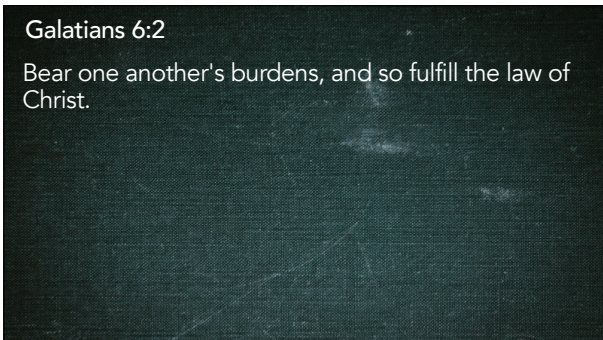


Why is this important?



John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.



Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Romans 13:8-10

Romans 5:21

...the law came in to increase the trespass,

Galatians 3:19

Hebrews 12:1-2

“although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it”

What is the Law and the Prophets?

The Law and the Prophets refer to the entire Hebrew Bible.

"The Law" generally refers to the first five books of the Bible written by Moses.

"The Prophets" generally refer to rest of the Old Testament Scriptures outside of the Pentateuch.

Luke 24:27

"The Prophets" generally refer to rest of the Old Testament Scriptures outside of the Pentateuch.

Luke 22:44

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Matthew 5:17

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Why so much time in verse 21?

Romans 1:1-2

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,"

Romans 16:25-26

Romans 3:21b
The Essence of Gospel Revelation

1. Look at Romans 3:21. How is the word Law (nomos) in the first part of the verse used differently than the word Law (nomos) in the second part of the verse?
2. Why is it important to understand the proper meaning of the word law in it's context? What are some potential dangers someone could fall into if they misuse this word law?
3. Read Romans 13:8-11 & Galatians 5:13-14. What are the demands of the law on the believer?
4. It is a very common practice to call the old testament scriptures, "the old testament." However that word testament literally means covenant. What is the difference between the old covenant and the old covenant scriptures?
5. Look at 2 Timothy 3:15-17. "All Scripture" includes "the Law."
 - A. How is the Law "useful" or "profitable" according to this text?
 - B. According to this verse what is the believers' rule of life?
6. Did the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant soften the Law? Or has the standard been raised? Discuss. See John 13:34; Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 43-45.
7. How is the the Law (along with the Prophets) used in the following verses?
John 1:45, 5:46; Acts 28:23