

Romans 3:1-31 - Sermon-Based Curriculum
"The Guts of the Gospel"

READ THE TEXT

Romans 3:21-26

DISCUSSION

When explaining the Gospel in this passage, Tim highlighted five distinct terms and images. For each term review the verses and then answer the questions.

1. Romans 3:23 *"Fall short - We have an eternal deficit before God."* This verse points out that all have sinned and fail to measure up to God in all of His glory. Tim highlighted that the severity of a fall is based on the distance. For example, a fall from a step stool is not as devastating as a fall from the Grand Canyon. But every sin separates us from God, and the distance is eternal. How does this perspective change the way you look at your sin?

2. Romans 3:24a *"Justified - We are declared right by God."* "Justified" is a legal term borrowed from the court of law. The judge declares the person is justified which means they have no charges against them. They are declared, "righteous." How can God make this judgment about us? What does it mean to know that this ruling is final and forever? How should God's judgment affect the way we see ourselves?

3. Romans 3:24b *"Redemption - Christ has paid our ransom."* This is the image of the slave auction and highlights that Christ purchased us. Read Mark 10:45. Each one of us was a slave to sin, but Christ paid the price necessary for our freedom. What was that price? How would you feel if you were a slave today, and someone was willing to give his or her life for your freedom? What does it mean to walk in freedom instead of slavery?

4. Romans 3:25 *"Propitiation - The wrath of God was satisfied."* This term refers to the Mercy Seat – the lid of the Ark of the Covenant covered in gold. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest went behind the curtain in the Holy of Holies and sprinkled blood on the Ark in order to cover the sins of the people. How does this Old Testament action point to what Christ did on the cross? When Jesus died, God tore open the curtain to the Holy of Holies from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). What did this signify?

5. Romans 3:26 *"Demonstration - God showed He is both just and Justifier."* How does the cross of Christ reveal God's justice and His mercy? Why does Romans 3:25-26 say that it was important for God to show the world that He is both just and Justifier?

6. Think back on how Paul has explained the Gospel in Romans 1-3? How has it changed or shaped your view of the Gospel? How has it shaped the way you view yourself in light of the Gospel? What is your greatest takeaway?

PRAYER

Close out your time in prayer. Take one of the terms of the Gospel above, and thank Christ for this specific work in your life. Pray that you would live in light of this truth this week.