

Christ Set Forth: God's Righteousness Triply Displayed

Romans 3:25–26

²⁵whom 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, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Main idea: 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.

Introduction: What is the righteousness of God that is revealed in the gospel?

1. Christ Himself

- a. Exhibited/displayed
- b. Propitiation: the complete assuaging of wrath and causing of favor; no other atonement needed, no other atonement possible. Anyone else would be consumed by God's wrath. Christ alone could consume it.
- c. Christ Himself equal to God's glory.
 - i. A reality from all eternity, displayed at least as much on the cross of shame as upon the throne of glory.
 - ii. If we love Him, then we love the preaching of His cross, for in this He is set forth as most glorious.

2. His righteousness in the past

- a. Christ's blood has always been the only and full atonement for sin
- b. This atonement has always been applied only through faith. How did they not perish? By believing into the promised Messiah.
- c. God has never once forgiven by setting aside His justice.
 - i. Don't make the mistake of thinking that God can ignore sin.
 - ii. Do marvel at that very righteousness which is counted through faith in Christ.

3. His righteousness in the present

- a. God will be righteous to justify you if you have faith in Jesus
- b. God must justify you, if you have faith in Christ, in order to remain righteous

Conclusion: Do you now see what your sin deserves? Or do you see it anew? Then display to yourself the Lord Jesus and His righteousness! And come and hear Him proclaimed to you! And seek that the Spirit would proclaim Him in your heart!