

The Greatest Paragraph Ever Written (Romans 3:23-27)

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Romans 3:23-27

v. 23 – “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...”

- What Is Sin? Sin is missing the mark, and the mark is perfection.
- It is sin whenever you do not glorify God perfectly with the life and breath that He has given you.
- A holy God hates sin.
- Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death."

v. 24 – “being justified as a gift by His grace...”

- Salvation is an unmerited gift given by God only to those whom God has mercifully chosen.
- Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

v. 24 – “through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...”

- Redemption - paying the price for a slave to be free.
- We are born as slaves, as slaves to sin and to Satan.

Charles Spurgeon from *Charles Hannon Spurgeon: Morning and Evening Devotional*:

“That God should consider His fallen creature, man, and instead of sweeping him away with the besom [broom] of destruction, should Himself undertake to be man's Redeemer, and to pay his ransom price, is, indeed marvellous!”

v. 25 – “propitiation...”

- Propitiation - the most important word in the Bible
- This word propitiation means “substitution; appeasement or satisfaction of God’s wrath by Jesus Christ.”
- A propitiation is a sacrifice that does two things:
 1. It satisfies the wrath of God.
 2. It allows God to be merciful to the guilty.

v. 25 – “whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed...”

- God wanted to *demonstrate* and tell us something about Himself.
- God displayed Christ like a billboard in the religious capital of the world for all to see.
- He demonstrated that He will punish sin, even if it meant that Jesus Christ, God the Son, had to be punished.

v. 26 – “for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time...”

- The Bible uses repetition to emphasize the word *righteousness*

- We can imagine that Satan, the Great Accuser, had a real problem with God's righteousness and forgiveness of His own people.
- The Cross - Christ drank the cup of the Father's wrath for sins that forever shut up Satan's accusations of His injustice because the price for sins had been fully paid.

v. 26 – “so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus...”

- Just and the justifier – God was righteous and just because He punished our sin through Jesus, and that He is able to justify us through His sacrifice.
- God is able to justly punish Jesus and forgive us through Christ's redemption.
- God the Father crushed His only begotten Son under the furious wrath that belonged to you.

v. 27 - “Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded...”

- Salvation is a gift, but even the faith that you have is a gift. There is nothing to boast of.
- The only thing you can contribute to salvation is your sin

v. 27 – “By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.”

- Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

J.C. Ryle from his book, *Holiness*:

Think, if you want stirring motives for serving God, what it cost to provide a salvation for your soul. Think how the Son of God left heaven and became Man, suffered on the cross, and lay in the grave, to pay your debt to God, and work out for you a complete redemption. Think of all this and learn that it is no light matter to possess an immortal soul.

Summary - The Gospel

- God is holy and hates sin
- God is righteous and just and He must punish sin.
- We were born as slaves to sin and all we can do is sin.
- How can God forgive wicked men and punish their sin?
- God punished sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ so that we could be forgiven
- Jesus calls us in Mark 1:15 to “repent and believe in the gospel.”
- We are to put all of our eggs in one basket and burn the bridges behind us
- To receive Christ is to throw off hope in everything but Christ alone.
- If you don't trust in Christ, today is the day to turn away from your sin and from this world and turn to Him.