**Propitiation by His Blood through Faith**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 3:19-25**

**Wednesday Evening**

**March 13, 2024**

**Romans 3:19-25**

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 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,

**19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.**

Saints, the verses above quoted from the Scriptures condemn all people, but especially those under the law, the Jews.

**1 Peter 2:22-25**

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Saints, those who read the verses above are silenced. There are no more excuses to be made, no more self-defenses uttered.

No one has any excuses; everyone is liable for judgment.

And if the Jews—God’s special chosen people—can say nothing in their own behalf, then no one can.

**Psalm 63:11**

But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

Saints, in the silence filling the court, one thought is clear: guilty as charged.

That accountability of guilt must be answered, even though every explanation and excuse had failed.

We are held accountable to God because he is our Creator, the personal source behind the standard (law), and the faithful Judge.

We owe our existence and obedience to this One.

**20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

**Acts 13:36-39**

36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. 38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Saints, with this all-inclusive statement, Paul closes his opening arguments that describe the state of human lostness. The purpose of the law is not to bring salvation, but to make us aware of sin.

The only way people can be made right in God’s sight is for God to declare them so.

No one can do it by trying to do what God’s law commands, meaning keeping certain traditions, such as circumcision, in order to be identified as a Jew and so remain under God’s covenant promises.

**James 2:10**

“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all”

These traditions have to do with identifying with God’s people and maintaining one’s relationship within that people.

Again, Paul drives the point home: being a knowledgeable, faithful, and law-keeping Jew doesn’t make a person righteous.

The law was not meant to become something the Jews boasted about; rather, it was given to eliminate anyone’s boasting and to make all people aware of sin and their constant need for God’s grace.

The law only makes it painfully clear that people aren’t obeying it.

**21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,**

Saints, the words but now present an important shift in subject.

Whereas the law was God’s righteous standard, the righteousness required to live up to it was not within man’s capacity.

God, the measure of righteousness, had to provide a means of righteousness—of being right in his sight.

The gospel is not a recent creation by God to respond to human failure. It was promised in the Scriptures long ago.

**Isaiah 46:13**

“I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory”

Whereas the law provided a measurement of the distance between God and his creatures, this righteousness from God has been provided in a different way.

There is a way to be righteous before God. It is not by obeying the law, by being “Jewish” yet it has always been in the Law and the Prophets, for they pointed to it.

**22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;**

Saints, the way to being made right in God’s sight is the way of faith in Jesus Christ to take away our sins.

Trusting in Jesus Christ means putting our confidence in him to forgive our sins, to make us right with God, and to empower us to live the way he taught us.

God’s solution is available to all of us regardless of our background or past behavior.

And this way is open to all who believe—both Jews and Gentiles.

Trusting in Jesus Christ is the only way we all can be saved.

We all begin in the same place spiritually, and there is only one way.

Faith in Jesus Christ doesn’t mean we understand everything that Christ has done for us, but it does mean that we believe he has done everything for us!

**23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

Saints, Paul has made it clear thus far in his letter that there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles when it comes to final judgment—all have sinned.

If the law measures the distance between God and his creatures, then human righteousness is our attempt to bridge that distance by our own efforts.

Paul is correct- we all fall short.

But what is this glorious standard that we do not reach on our own?

The word glory (doxes), from which we derive the word doxology, refers to the wonderful and awe-inspiring but indescribable presence of God himself.

Sin keeps us from the presence of God. Sinning confirms our status as sinners, and sin cuts us off from our holy God.

Furthermore, sin leads to death (because it disqualifies us from living with God), regardless of how great or small each sin may seem. Sins are deadly, but sinners can be forgiven.

There are no distinctions: we have all sinned; we all need a savior; Jesus Christ is the Savior; through faith we can receive his salvation.

**24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,**

Saints, Just as there is no distinction in our fallenness, Paul writes, so there is no distinction in the source of our justification.

God justifies us; he declares us not guilty for our sins. When a judge in a court of law declares the defendant “not guilty,” all the charges are removed from the person’s record.

Legally, it is as if the person had never been accused. When God forgives our sins, our record is wiped clean.

From his perspective, it is as though we had never sinned. We do not have to anxiously work while hoping that in the end we will have been good enough to meet God’s approval.

Instead, those who believe in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice on the cross are freed—Christ Jesus has taken away our sins.

Our righteousness before God depends entirely on him and can only be accepted as a gift from him.

God in his gracious kindness assures us of our acceptance and then calls us to serve him as best we can out of sheer love for him.

**25 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,**

Saints, in describing how God provided us with undeserved righteousness, Paul alludes to the sacrificial system in the Old Testament.

**Leviticus 17:11**

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

Only now, the life offered as sacrifice is not a spotless animal, but Christ.

God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins.

That punishment involved his death—he shed his blood for sinners.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, God can accept those who put their trust in Jesus.

**Why did the punishment require shed blood?**

God had said from the beginning, “For the life of any creature is in its blood . . .

**Leviticus 17:11**

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

But the blood Paul mentions here is a particular blood—it is Christ’s blood.

**Romans 5:9**

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

**Hebrews 9:12-14**

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**John 6:53-59**

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

**1 John 1:7**

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Revelation 12:11**

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death”

Only the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross was the effective atonement for our sins.

Christ stands in our place, having paid the penalty of death for our sin, and he could satisfy God’s anger against us.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**