

GOD'S GIFT OF GOODNESS (RIGHTEOUSNESS)

Romans 3:21-24

Introduction:

- Two Basic Categories of People represented by two circles
 1. Those _____ of Christ (no relationship to Him)
 2. Those _____ Christ (faith relationship with Him)
- Mankind's natural born state of being outside of Christ:
 1. Prevents a person from p_____ God (Heb 11:6)
 2. Renders a person h_____ in understanding and seeking God (Rom 3:11)
 3. Makes it impossible for a person to change their condition, even after becoming aware of their condition (Rom 3:19,20)
- So how can anyone become a believer? – through God's g_____ of righteousness, which:

Is a Gift That's F_____ (21-24a)

- Paul declares that what he is teaching is nothing n_____
 1. Verse 21a – the righteousness that God gives has been revealed apart from rule-keeping
 - a. *Apart from the law* – there is no “the” before “law” in the Greek text and so Paul is referring to r_____ in general. You don't become righteous by keeping rules.
 - b. How to receive this righteousness has been revealed in another way.
 2. Verse 21b,22 – the Old Testament scriptures have t_____ of this gift of righteousness as being through faith in the prophesied Christ.
 - a. *Being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets:*
 - 1) The Law – refers to the Law of M_____ which revealed the sinful condition (Deut 31:26)
 - 2) The Prophets – refers to the scriptures that revealed the plan that God would give this righteousness through faith in C_____, who would
 - a) D_____ Satan (Gen 3:15)
 - b) Be a p_____ like Moses (Deut 18:15)
 - c) Be born from David's line, yet be the Mighty G_____ and would establish God's kingdom (Is 9:6,7)
 - d) Be rejected as king, suffer and be killed, but by His death He would make a new c_____ (Dan 9:25,27; Is 53)
 - e) This new covenant is a r_____ with the one true God where there is total forgiveness (Jer 31:31-34)
 3. Verses 23,24a – since all have sinned, this righteousness is offered as a free gift
 - a. Faith is to be defined as t_____ Christ – who is in the driver's seat of your life?
 - b. Justified – literally means to be declared r_____
 - c. Grace – refers to a gift that is not d_____ (if we deserved it, it would not be grace - Rom 11:6)

● How it works

1. An unbeliever cannot enter the circle of being in Christ
2. God must enter the circle of the unbeliever and offer the free gift of righteousness
3. A person must receive this gift, trusting in Christ as his/her righteousness

Is a Gift That F_____ (24b)

- The key word is redemption
 1. This word was used in Greek literature to refer to a payment made to free a s_____
 - a. We were bound by s_____ (Rom 6:17)
 - b. We could not p_____ God (Rom 8:8)
 - c. We were b_____ by Satan (2 Cor 4:4)
 - d. We lacked the spiritual properties to understand and accept the things of God (I Cor 2:14)
 2. The price of freeing us from our sin was Jesus' b_____

3. The proof that His payment does free is the r_____ (when Jesus returns, He will permanently reverse death for all believers).

●Scriptures related to this freeing act

1. Col 1:13 – God transferred us from the domain of d_____ into the kingdom of His beloved Son.
2. Matt 20:28 – Jesus is our r_____ payment.
3. John 8:36 – If the Son makes you free, then you are truly free!