

Title: *No Partiality with God*
~~For all have sinned~~

Series: Romans

Communion

Text: Romans 3:21-23

For several weeks, now, we have been looking at the great principle of **condemnation**. That all folks are under the condemnation of God. Whether you are a typical ungodly, non-religious person, or, whether you are a very religious self-righteous person. No matter who you are the whole world is condemned. That is the main theme of Romans chapter 1 verse 18 through chapter 3 verse 20. And that is why, dear friends, it is so refreshing to come to Romans chapter 3 verse 21. Verse 21 starts out "**BUT NOW**" And those are refreshing words.

It is also refreshing because we are coming to the second great principle of **righteousness** which is the principle of **justification**. Justification is the act of God whereby He pronounce us righteous. You see, God doesn't make people righteous on this earth. Some folks thing so. But he doesn't. Some day He will at the second coming of Christ. But in this day and age God pronounces folks righteous based on their faith in a righteous act committed by Jesus. And that is exciting.

So, let take our Bibles and turn to Romans chapter 3 beginning with verse 21.

(Read Romans 3:21-23)

(PRAYER)

(1D) Today, is **communion Sunday**. In preparation for **communion** I just want to look at these three verses under the topic: OUR NEED FOR THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. Why do all people need to have the righteousness of God? And there are three things here that I want to share with you.

(1E) First of all, in Vs 21, we see the revelation of the O.T. concerning this need. The revelation of the O.T.

The truth of the matter is that God revealed in the O.T. that all people needed God's righteousness. Every person needs to be righteous in order to have fellowship with God. And that tremendous truth was revealed in the O.T..

In Vs 21 we read **"the righteousness of God has been manifested."** Notice, please, it is in the perfect tense: HAS BEEN MANIFESTED..It was manifested in the past in the O.T.; and it is continuing to be manifested to us. God wants everybody to know His righteousness. He is not trying to keep it a secret. It has been put on display. It is manifested.

Now, there are two ways in which that righteousness was manifested in the O.T.

(1P) First, by the law. According to Vs 21 it is "being witnessed by the law and the prophets."

Now, how did the law manifest God's righteousness? And show people that they had a need for it? The answer is through the sacrifices. The ceremonial part of the law demanded animal sacrifices. And these animals when their blood was shed was an atonement for sin. Meaning "a covering for sin." The Bible never said that animals and their blood took away sin. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches the opposite. That ~~like~~ ^{like} bulls ^{and} goats and ~~bulls~~ ^{sheep} can never take away sin. They were simply a covering. Which is the meaning of the word "atonement." A covering for sin.

But the law constantly showed man his need. As ~~he~~ ^{man} violated God's law he had to come and bring a sacrifice. And as they looked at that sacrifice the righteousness of God was being revealed. And that is simply this: that sin must be atoned for. ~~It~~ ^{Sin} must be paid for. God never over looks sin. He doesn't ignore it. He doesn't act like it doesn't exist. God is a just, a righteous, a Holy God. And sin must be paid for. So His righteousness was always displayed in the O.T. by the sacrifices that were necessary to atone for man's sin.

(2F) Now, the second way in which righteousness was revealed in the O.T. was by the prophets. (Vs 21) Every one of the prophets told the people that they needed to have the righteousness of God.

Let me give you one example. In Isaiah 64, the prophets says "All our righteousness is like filthy rags in God's sight." Filthy ~~is~~ rags...

And the prophets told the people that we are all sinners in God's sight..

and we need God's righteousness
(2E) Now, the second thing that I would like you to notice in Vs 22 concerning ~~the~~ ^{our} the need for God's righteousness is the requirement of faith.

Throughout the O.T. as well as the New, God says that there is a requirement of faith. You must believe His righteousness.

(1F) According to Vs 22, Paul says, first of all, that the means by which one receives this righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ.

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Now, ~~listen~~ carefully, The Bible doesnot teach that righteousness is given to you simplely by faith alone.....Listen carefully. The Bible doesnot teach that it is by faith alone.

The Bible teaches that it is by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Some people say, "well, I have faith in God." James 2:19 says "that the devils believe in God and tremble." It is not simplely that you believe in God and believe in church and believe in all these good things. That is not what the Bible is teaching. You are to have faith in Jesus Christ. And more specific an act that happened in human history, that God performed, in which Jesus Christ voluntarily gave his life.. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS ALL THE RIGHTEOUNES OF GOD DISPLAYED...

Everything that God ~~wants~~ wants to tell us about His righteousness was displayed at the cross. ~~You~~ ^{We} must believe in Jesus Christ alone. ~~You~~ ^{We} can't add anything to it. The requiremant is faith..in..Jesus Christ. Nothing else ~~You~~ ^{We} can't add to this ~~your~~ ^{our} own philosophy or good deeds.

(2F) The second thing I notice about this requirement of faith in Vs 22 is the effectiveness of it. or, how sufficent is it.

It says that this righteousness of God is unto all who believe. Unto all...Now, what does that mean? That means that when Jesus Christ died on the cross, every human being ~~who~~ ~~has~~ ever lived...past...present...or future... all human beings have been provided for by the cross of Jesus. It is unto all people. Everyone who will believe.

Some people say, "Well, it is only for those who believe, according to this verse."

and

X In I Timothy chapter 2 vesse 6; and in Matthew 20 verse 28, the Bible presents to us the reason why some people say that the death of Christ is only for the ones believing or the elect. Or, whether the death is for all men...

I would like to explain that. In I Timothy 2:6 it says that Christ gave his life a ransom for all. In Matthew 20 verse 28 it says that Christ gave his life a ransom for many. The Greek text says, "for the many." The many, of course, who would believe.

Now, it seems like a contradiction, doesn't it? Christ gave his life a ransom for all. And yet, a ransom for the many. WHICH IS IT?

The answer is in the Greek preposition. The word "for" in I Timothy 2:6 when he said "he gave his life a ransom for all," is the word "in the behalf of." "In the behalf of all men."

That is what you find in Romans 3:22. It is unto all. It is in the behalf of all men that Christ died.

But in Matthew 20:28 when it says that he gave his life a ransom for the many, the word "for" is a Greek word meaning "in the stead of". It is the common word for substitution. Christ died in the behalf of everyone. And his atonement is sufficient for everyone.

But he died in the stead of...that is, he substitutes his life for you, only when you believe.....

You are not the child of God simply because you love and believe the things of the Bible...NO...You are the child of God because you believe in Jesus Christ, alone, for your salvation.

All men are not the children of God. And God is not the father of all men. Jesus said about some very religious people of his day. "You are of your father the devil."

Obviously there are some people that are not in God's family.

So, the atonement, Christ death is capable of paying for everybody's sin. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches that all sin, positionally, as been paid for the moment Christ died.

Slowly But, it isn't effective to you, it isn't applied to you, untill you personally believe in that righteous act of God at the cross when Jesus died. Untill you rely upon it completely, ^{with} no confidence in yourself or what you could ever do for God, only believing in what Christ did. At that moment we are saved and not before. That is very, very important.

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(3E) Now, the third thing that I want you to see under ^{on} the need for God's righteousness is in Vs 23. That is the reason or proof from sin. Sin shows us that all of us need God's righteousness. Two principles, here...

(1F) first of all, notice the fact of one act of sin. The fact of one act of sin. The Bible says, vs 23, "**that all have sinned.**" Literally, it says: **all did sin.** You see, it is not referring, here, to the fact that we are sinners by nature..which is true..But, it is referring to the fact that every person, regardless of who he or she is, has at one point in his life sinned. That fact is clear. Now, whether it is one lie or a thousand lies, if we have sinned once, we are in need of God's righteousness..WHY?....Because God's righteousness doesn't have any sin in it. Non at all. It is perfect..Totally apart from sin. So, if you have sinned once..(and you certainly have)..it just proves that you need God's righteousness.

(2F) Secondly, he shows us our continuing need of righteousness when He says in vs 23 that we have fallen short. Literally it says: "continently coming short of glorifying God."

You see, while every person has sinned at least once, the evidence for all of us is that we always go for "SELF" and not for God. We are continually coming short by habit of life of glorifying God. Instead we glorify ourselves. And once again we prove that we need God's righteousness. That is what this verse is teaching.

So, that is our need. We have a great need for God's righteousness. And the answer to this need, as we will see in great detail next Sunday, is the cross of Jesus Christ. Since we in our own self cannot fulfill this need, God sent his son to die on a cross in order to pay for all our sins. In Jesus the need is fulfilled. And this takes a personal act of faith on your part. We must confess our sin and receive Jesus as our Lord in Saviour in order to experience God's righteousness in our life.

And that is what COMMUNION IS ALL ABOUT. We are remembering that in Christ all needs are met.