



The Book of Romans

Tuesday Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

March 17: Justified by Grace

Romans 3:21-31

Who does the Church commemorate today? Why do we drift so far from the origins of our holy days?

In our last study, how did Paul diagnose the whole human race?

In the margin of his Bible, Martin Luther claimed Romans 3:21-26 is “the chief point, and the very central place of the Epistle, and of the whole Bible.”

What is justification?

“Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.” – Martin Franzmann

Romans 3:21-22

What is the origin of the righteousness God manifests?

Where do we find witness of this righteousness?

How is this righteousness received?

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Romans 3:23-24

What two things are true of all people?

When and where are all sins punished? What is the difference between objective justification and subjective justification?

Romans 3:25

What does propitiation mean?

^{NIV} **Romans 3:25** God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

“God had given Israel the Temple and the sacrificial services as such a means of propitiation that should be used ‘until the time of reformation’ (Heb 9:10). Here Paul uses a word for ‘propitiation’ that could also be used for ‘the mercy seat,’ the lid with the cherub statues that covered the Ark where the tablets of the Law were kept in the Holy of Holies. This was where the high priest sprinkled the blood of atonement for the sins of the people once a year on the great Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). But God had placed the mercy seat of God before our eyes so that all could step forth and receive the redemption and the righteousness of God.” – Bo Giertz

How had God “passed over former sins”?

Hebrews 9:15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Romans 3:26

How can God be just and also declare sinners righteous?

^{NLT} **Romans 3:26** And he is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus.

Romans 3:27-28

Can we boast about what great people we are? Why or why not?

How does Paul use the word “law” in verse 27?

Can we be right before God through our obedience?

Romans 3:29-31

Is there a difference in how Jews and Gentiles are justified? Does Paul neglect the law?

1 Peter 2:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

April 7: Abraham and David: Romans 4:1-12