



THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS "The Genius of God" Romans 3:21-31

No. 283

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We have now reached one of the pivotal points of the epistle introduced by the words: "But now..." After the powerful "charge" that "all are under sin" and merit divine judgment, Paul begins to outline God's answer to the human predicament.

I. The Divine Dilemma.

- A. The human condition. v. 23
 - 1. All have sinned—archer's arrow.
 - 2. All have come short—lagging runner.
 - 3. Every mouth is silenced. 3:19
- B. The Divine character.
 - 1. He is righteous—"Righteousness," "Justice," "Just": all related. v. 21
 - 2. He is gracious. v. 24
- C. The crucial issue.
 - How can God "be just and the one who justifies"? v. 25, e.g. John 8

II. The Universal Solution.

- A. Justification—language of the law court.
 - 1. To be declared righteous in God's court.
 - 2. Freely by His grace. v. 24
 - 3. Not by observing the law. v. 20
- B. Redemption—language of the market place.
 - 1. To be ransomed by paying a price.
 - 2. Came by Christ Jesus. v. 24
 - 3. Not by silver and gold. 1 Peter 1:18
- C. Propitiation—language of the temple.
 - 1. To placate wrath.
 - 2. In His blood—N.B. "Hilasterion"—mercy seat.
 - 3. Through faith.

III. The Common Denominators.

- A. No room for racial pride—all justified the same way.
- B. No place for arrogant boasting—no one justified by law.
- C. No exception to way of salvation—Justification by grace through faith.