**The Book of Romans**

Part Two: God’s righteousness is revealed in His gracious provision of the Gospel.

(3:21–4:25)

***The Greatest Gift Romans 3:21-31***

The revelation of God’s wrath against sin (Romans 1:18–3:20) is quickly followed with His revelation of forgiveness and grace. And just as carefully as Paul has made the case of all mankind being lost in their sin, he makes the case for their being offered a full and free pardon. How can this be? It is not by their works, of course, but through the just punishment of their sins in Jesus upon the Cross. This is why and how God can be both just AND the justifier, a God of justice AND a God of compassion. God does away not only with any need for our contribution, but any possibility of boasting about it as well. Free grace does all. What remains is for us to receive the gift, praising and thanking Him.

***(In contrast to and in response to our rebellion and sin (1:18–3:20) . . .***

***God’s gracious salvation***, ***long predicted, is here.*** v. 21

This “but now” is the great turning point of Romans. Paul uses the word “law” in two different ways. “Apart from the law” means that God’s righteousness does not come to us by our keeping the Law of Moses. On the other hand, “The Law and the Prophets” means the whole TANAKH, our Old Testament. Paul is showing that Jesus’ death was not “Plan B,” but was all along God’s only strategy for dealing with man’s rebellion without destroying him. All along the way were sprinkled signs and predictions of the King/Priest/Sacrifice who will come. Genesis 3:15; 49:8-12; Numbers 24:1-9; Isaiah 53:1-12

***This salvation is equally gracious to all.*** vv. 22-23

 Since all have sinned, all are lost, and all are offered the same solution: justification by faith. The solution is as wide as the need. Since it is “by faith,” the differences of culture, race, and gender all disappear, and since there is nothing to buy or earn, no one has an advantage.

***This salvation is fully a provision of God.*** vv. 24-26

 He makes us right with Himself (justified).

 He Himself gives all salvation blessings (grace).

Through Jesus He “buys us back” (redemption).

Jesus’ sacrifice satisfies our debt to God (propitiation, blood).

He offers salvation which must be appropriated (received).

He is shown to be both just and loving (righteousness).

He asks only that His sufficient offer be believed (faith).

***This salvation gives God all of the glory.*** vv. 27-30

 The idea of earning salvation is rendered foolish. Micah 6:6-8

***This salvation fulfills all that God has promised***. v. 31

 Far from nullifying God’s law, justification by faith upholds it. How?

 By showing our helplessness to keep God’s perfection.

 By showing a need for God to provide a perfect sacrifice.

 By showing that the Law was never a means to earn God’s favor.

 By showing that our rebellion is made even worse by law.

 By showing that salvation is meant for both Jew and Gentile.

 By showing that justification also brings obedience.

 By showing that even the Law was to be received by faith.

**Applying God’s Truth to Life**

**God is satisfied with Jesus. Are you?**

He was our perfect Substitute Sacrifice.

His sacrifice satisfied all of God’s demands.

His death took away each and every one of our sins.

His offer of salvation demands only that you confess your sins to Him and believe in His atonement for sinners. Have you?