



But Now! | Pastor Ben Hodges

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Martin Luther: “the chief point, and the very central place of the Epistle, and of the whole Bible.”

Leon Morris: “possibly the most important single paragraph ever written.”

Romans 3:21-31 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

The Law (the 10 Commandments + many more)

The Law and the Prophets (Hebrew Scriptures)

Justified (declared vs progressive)

Redemption (bought back)

Propitiation (wrath satisfied, anger atoned)

“In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see,
for ‘twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.”

By His Blood (died not just for you but instead of you)

“On the cross Jesus became the greatest murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, and blasphemer that there ever was. Our most merciful Father sent his only Son into the world and said to him: Jesus, you will become Peter the denier; you will become Paul that persecutor, blasphemer and cruel oppressor; you will become David that adulterer; you will become Adam, that sinner who did eat the apple in paradise ...” - Martin Luther

Wrong View Brings Wrong Understanding

- Benevolent God :: engaged but not judgmental
- Distant God :: not engaged or judgmental
- Critical God :: not engaged but judgmental
- The Authoritative God :: both engaged and judgmental

A Celebration of The Gospel:

1. Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone “Law & Prophets”
(not tradition or any other authority of books)

2. Sola Gratia

Grace Alone “by his grace as a gift”
(not human works – baptism, kindness, serving)

3. Sola Fide

Faith Alone “through faith in Jesus Christ”
(only God not anyone or anything else)

4. Solus Christus

Christ Alone “redemption...is in Christ Jesus”
(Jesus + anything = nothing :: Jesus + nothing = everything)

5. Soli Deo Gloria

Glory to God alone
(no boasting; gratitude to people but glory only to God)

I OBEY vs I AM ACCEPTED