

Romans 3:21-31, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Righteousness Imputed.

Romans 3:21-22

God is righteous and man is unrighteous. That's a problem. Since all of our "righteous" deeds are like filthy rags (Isa. 64:6), then another path to righteousness must be made or we are all dead men. "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested ... even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe" (Rom. 3:21-22). If you believe in Christ, not only has your infinite debt been paid in full at the cross (Col. 2:14), but the perfect righteousness of Christ has been imputed (transferred) to your account! Dear Christian, God rejoices over you with shouts of joy (Zeph. 3:17), because in you He sees His own Son's righteousness deposited into your account. Let this be your guard against discouragement. Read Philipians 3:7-9

☐ Tuesday - The First Step.

Romans 3:23

Here is mankind's legacy: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23); "Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins" (Eccl. 7:20); There is none righteous, not even one" (Rom. 3:10). "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all" (James 2:10). Acceptance of one's own sinfulness is the first stepping stone on the narrow cobblestone path that leads to eternal life (Mt. 7:13-14). But "if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Read 1 John 1:9

☐ Wednesday - The Gift of God.

Romans 3:24

Salvation is a gift. We are "justified as a gift by [God's] grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). Grace is unearned, unmerited favor. Has your Christian walk lost its passion or zeal? Reconsider the gift of God to you, bought with the most expensive price ever paid (1 Pet. 1:18-19), and given with the greatest love ever displayed (1 Jn. 3:1; Rom. 5:8).
Read Ephesians 2:8

☐ Thursday - God's Wrath Propitiated.

Romans 3:24-25

"God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psa. 7:11). "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (Rom. 1:18). But Christ has propitiated (satisfied, appeased) the wrath of God for all of those who believe in Him, by bearing our sin and eternal punishment on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). And so we are saved, not by "good" works, but "by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood" (Rom. 3:24-25). "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). As a child of God, we should fear God's discipline (Heb. 12:5-11), but never again His eternal wrath.
Read Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9

☐ Friday - Justice and Mercy Meet at the Cross.

Romans 3:26

The Bible declares, "He who justifies the wicked ... is an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 17:15). But isn't that precisely what God has done by saving us? Yes, but not by overlooking our offenses, but rather by punishing them in Christ at the cross (Col. 2:13-14), so that God remains "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). At the cross the tension between God's perfect justice and His great mercy is relieved, so that "lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psa. 85:10).
Read Psalm 89:14

☐ Saturday - Justification by Grace Through Faith.

Romans 3:28

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law" (Rom. 3:28). Let us then forsake all foolish notions of being justified by our works and trust boldly in Christ. Read Rom. 3:20, 4:5; Gal. 2:16, 21, 5:4; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:9