

## **Righteousness** **Romans 3:21-26**

Righteousness of God is one of the greatest themes of the Bible and should be studied thoroughly. Easy thing for man to forget his sinful condition and need for savior  
Sins are easily minimized as mistakes or errors in judgement.  
This enables one to ignore his reliance upon another for salvation.  
If we make ourselves think we are not lost, then would need no salvation.

### **Man Is Not Righteous**

Saul of Tarsus was a Jew of Jews, following the Law of Moses. - Acts 22:3-5

Saul's life enabled him to advance in Jew's religion and enjoy praise of his fellows because of his zeal for law - Galatians 1:13-14

His life shows highest fruition of all that was good in Moses' law.

But to apostle Paul it meant nothing - Philippians 3:4-7

All fail to gain righteousness through self - Jeremiah 10:23

Paul shows this true beginning in Romans 1:18

This passage shows the futility of man's attempt to know God apart from divine revelation and God's own righteousness.

Gentile demonstrated natural inclination for degradation & idolatry while seeking to know God through his own wisdom and practices.

Jew shows man's inability to find justification thru law of Moses.

But note the conclusion that Paul draws - Romans 3:23

God provided for us

Because man was alienated from God through his sins and iniquity, God gave and declared a righteousness of His own - Isaiah 59:1-2

It is God's righteousness, and not man's righteousness - Philippians 3:9

### **God - The Source Of Righteousness**

Man, a sinner, is incapable of achieving salvation alone - Romans 10:1-13

God's divine love prompted gracious offer of redemption & righteousness - Titus 2:11-14; John 3:16

This restores the sinner to divine favor and is the means of enjoying divine fellowship - Romans 3:21-22

### **Christ - The Righteousness Of God**

Jesus Christ became flesh to declare and demonstrate to man the righteousness of God.

He is the central figure in God's scheme of redemption.

Without Christ it would be impossible for men to be saved.

Jesus purchased man from the bondage of sin, and reveals God's plan for righteousness - 1Corinthians 1:30

### **The Gospel - The Revelation Of Righteousness**

Since God's plan involved the return of Jesus to heaven's glory and God's presence, the righteousness of God was revealed in the Gospel.

Man can learn of his salvation in no other place.

And he can be saved in no other way than by obedience to the Gospel - Romans 1:16-17

### **Righteousness Comes From God**

If salvation was to be found in the practice of Judaism, Paul would have found it. But he failed!

If salvation was to be found in human wisdom, the combined intellect of sages and philosophers in all past ages would have found it. But they failed!

Can you and I do more? No! Unless we apply the righteousness of God to our lives. We, of our own wisdom, cannot set our soul aright, so, it is back to the Bible for the righteousness of God.