



# ROMANS

APRIL 27, 2025

## THE GIFT OF GRACE

Romans 3:21-31

John Phillips once said, “just as great doors swing on very ordinary hinges, so dramatic changes in scripture often hinge upon the very common word “but.” Romans 3:21 says “but now.” Paul has clearly articulated that everyone, Jew and Gentile alike, stand guilty before God (Romans 1:18-3:20). He now turns the corner and with the simple statement “but now” he begins to articulate God’s plan of salvation. Romans 3:21 is one of the most pivotal verses in the book of Romans. It might be the most important passage in Romans, some scholars say the whole Bible. Martin Luther called it “the chief point, and the very central place of the Epistle, and the whole Bible.” Leon Morris says it “is possibly the most important single paragraph ever written.”

In Romans 3:21, Paul returns to his theme clearly stated in Romans 1,

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” *Romans 1:16–17 (NASB95)*

### 1. THE LANGUAGE OF SALVATION: Romans 3:21-26

Biblical terminology is important to know. The following words are the language of salvation and help us to understand God’s redemptive plan and provision.

**a. Righteousness (verses 21-22)**

**b. Faith (verse 22)**

**c. Believe (verse 22)**



d. Justified (verse 24)

e. Grace (verse 24)

f. Redemption (verse 24)

g. Propitiation (verse 25)

h. Just/justifier (verse 26)

## 2. THE QUESTIONS ABOUT SALVATION? Romans 3:27-31

**Q: "Where then is boasting?"** (Who deserves credit for our salvation?)

**A: God (verses 27-28)** – God's plan of salvation eliminates human pride!

**Q: "Is God the God of the Jews?"** (Is salvation only for the Jews?)

**A: No, anyone may receive salvation! (verses 28-30)** – God's plan of salvation eliminates human prejudice!

**Q: "Do we nullify the law?"** (What role does the law play in God's plan of salvation?)

**A: The law is God's means of confronting and diagnosing our sin problem! (verse 31)** – God's plan of salvation eliminates human presumption!



### 3. THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION!

#### a. A transfer of righteousness from Christ to us!

Though we stand guilty, completely devoid of righteousness before God, we are declared just by means of a transfer of righteousness from that of Jesus Christ.

#### b. A gift of grace!

The standard of righteousness has never been anything less than moral perfection, which no one can ever achieve. Therefore, our only hope is to be declared righteous by the gracious gift of God. We receive this gift through faith in Jesus Christ who took our punishment on our behalf. He satisfied God's requirement that justice be served.

#### c. A gift of grace that is received by faith!

Adrian Rogers defines saving faith as "a heart's response to the character of God, involving trust and commitment, not just intellectual belief." Salvation is by grace through faith, meaning we are saved by believing in Jesus Christ and trusting in Him. Trusting that Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sin, trusting that Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave, providing forgiveness and eternal life! (Ephesians 2:8-9)

#### The Bible articulates God's motive for His provision for our salvation:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3:16 (NASB95)*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8 (NASB95)*