

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

You Need Righteousness

Passage: Romans 3:21–26

Introduction: Romans is one of the most important books of the Bible and Romans 3:21-26 is one of the most important passages in this crucial book. Professor and author Tom Schreiner said this in a sermon, "This passage is absolutely crucial for our joy, for our happiness as believers, for delighting in God." Pastor John explained that our most foundational need is spiritual: we need righteousness so that we can be restored into a relationship with God. Any lasting joy and happiness we would experience comes from the restoration of this relationship through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Definitions from the passage:

- **Manifested:** Demonstrated or revealed.
- **Propitiation:** Satisfying God's wrath.
- **Righteousness of God in verses 21-22:** God's saving righteousness.
- **Righteousness of God in verses 25-26:** God's judging righteousness.

Redeemer Church [Statement of Faith](#)

Article V provides a thorough summary of Scripture's teaching on justification.

Article V – OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that a great gospel blessing which Christ (John 1:16; Eph 3:8) secures to those who believe in Him is Justification (Acts 13:39; Isa 3:11-12; Rom 8:1). Justification includes both the pardon of sin (Rom 5:9; Zech 13:1; Matt 9:6; Acts 10:43) and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness (Rom 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Rom 5:21); that is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but only through faith in the Redeemer's blood (Rom 4:4-5; Rom 5:21; Rom 6:28; Phil 3:7-9). By virtue of this faith, His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God (Rom 5:19; Rom 3:24-26; Rom 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12). Justification brings us, immediately at the time of salvation, into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity (Rom 5:1-3,11; 1 Cor 1:30-31; Matt 6:33; 1 Tim 4:8).

Definitions from this statement:

- **Justification:** Declaration by God that we are not guilty and instead are righteous in His sight.
- **Imputed:** Put in our account.

Questions:

Romans 3:23 says every person is a sinner who falls short of God's righteousness. Pastor John talked about how we need righteousness to have hope of living in God's presence now and in eternity and how our default mode is self-justification through our own effort.

1. How are you prone to trying to justify yourself before God and others instead of acknowledging your sin and receiving Christ's justifying work through faith? Either as someone who is not a believer or as a believer who still struggles with this.

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2. The phrase the "righteousness of God" in verses 21-22 is best understood in context as God's saving righteousness: His judicial declaration that we are righteous. How does verse 22 say we receive this saving righteousness?
3. The phrase the "righteousness of God" in verses 25-26 is best understood in context as God's judging righteousness: His just punishment of sin. What response and attitude should Jesus satisfying God's wrath against our sin inspire in us? How can we fan the flame of this response/attitude in one another?
4. Romans 3:24 says that redemption is available in Christ. Pastor John explained that redemption means to release on payment of a ransom. How does redemption in Christ make a practical difference in your life? Where do you want to see the response of thankfulness John mentioned be more present in your life?