

Title: Justified ~~Freely~~ *Without Cause*
 Text: Romans 3:21-31 (This sermon Vs 24-31)

Last Sunday we began looking at the second principle of God's righteousness, And that is the GREAT PRINCIPLE OF JUSTIFICATION. And once again, justification is the act of God whereby He pronounces us righteous. *Let me Remind you that* ~~You see~~, God doesn't make people righteous. He pronounces people righteous. *Please Rembr*

Now, before we look at the scripture, let me give you some background information. There are two kinds of righteousness discussed here in the book of Romans. And if you don't get them straight in your mind, you might get lost somewhere in this study. Two kinds of righteousness.

(1) Number one, there is the NON-TRANSFERRABLE KIND. Meaning: it cannot be transferred to you. It cannot be given to you. This non-transferrable kind of righteousness is referring to ~~the~~ ^{an} attribute of God. What God is in himself. God is righteous. He is totally ~~apart~~ ^{apart} from sin. He is perfect. But, that is not transferred to you and to me. Now, many people teach that. But, let me tell you, that is not the teaching of the Bible. God doesn't transfer his attribute of total Holy righteousness to you and to me. Not at all.

(2) Now, the second kind of righteousness is the transferrable kind. This kind God gives to you. And that is referring to a righteous act of God. It is transferrable because it is put to our account according to ~~to~~ what God did in a righteous act. And the righteous act of God that I am referring to, which can be put to your account, is the cross of Jesus Christ. THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST IS DISCRIBED ^{in THE N.T.} AS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. All that you need to understand about righteousness was fully revealed and deminstrated when Jesus died on the cross.

O.K. There are two main things that we want to look at today.

(1) First is the necessity ~~for~~ the righteousness of God. What God says is necessary in order for you and me to be pronouced righteous.

(2) And secondly, we are going to look at the nature of the righteousness of God as it is discribed in the last few verses of Romans chapter 3.

~~So, take your~~

So, take your Bibles and turn with me to Romans chapter 3. We will begin reading at Verse 21. And we will begin our study at Vs 24

(Read Romans 3:21-31)

PRAYER

If you will look at your outline, you will notice that this second principle, ~~of~~ Justification, begins with chapter 3 verse ~~21~~ and continues through chapter 5 verse 21.

(1C) Now, first of all, I want you to know that JUSTIFICATION according to these verses is dependent upon the work of Christ. (1D) And the first area that we looked at (last Sunday) was our need for God's righteousness. ^{Vs 21-23}

(2D) Now, let's ^{Notice} come to verse 24 and the NECESSITY FOR GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

What does ~~if~~ God say is necessary in order that we be pronounced righteous? In order that we can go to heaven, if you please. So that we can have forgiveness of sin, if you please. WHAT IS NECESSARY: There are three things that I want you to notice and apply to your life.

(1E) Number one, in Vs 24, the Bible teaches that it is necessary to have a purchase. Righteousness must come through a purchase. Which, by the way, is the meaning of the word "REDEMPTION." You must be bought. You cannot have God's righteousness unless you are bought. And, dear friends, you are ^{bought} ~~bought~~ out-of a condition. The condition is that we are a slave to ourselves and to sin.

^{Now, To Explain the fact} ~~In Vs 24~~ there are a couple of things that ^{are} ~~are~~ very important for ^{us} ~~us~~ to understand.

(1F) One, is the source of this purchase. Vs 24 says "being justified as a gift by His grace." You see, Grace is the source of this purchase.

Now, let me try and explain that....

as a gift

If I were to ask you: "What is the meaning of 'justified ~~freely~~'
I dare say that most of us ~~would~~ would say.."without cost"...

And that is not the meaning of that! And yet that is the common way it is used. You are going to discovery here in a moment that the real meaning of that is deeper truth. A truth that goes fare deeper than "without cost." It was without cost to us. But it did cost God.

It is not simplely "without cost." It means something else. And I believe the best text to help us with this meaning is John 15:25. Would you turn there please. John chapter 15 verse 25.

The same word is translated differently in John 15:25. And I hope it will help you understand the meaning. John 15:25 says "But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their law."

Now, what ~~he~~ ^{Jesus} is talking about in this passage is that he just said that men ~~would~~ would hate him. And thus men would hate his disciples. And to expalin this, Jesus said that this was a fulfillment of prophecy.

Now, Vs 25, here is the statement: "They hated me without a cause." That little phrase "without a cause" is one Greek word. And it is the same word translated in Romans 3:24 as ~~without a cause~~ ^{a freely} "gift"..."WITHOUT A CAUSE"...

Now, here is what I would like you to do. Take that little phrase... "without a cause" and read it into Romans 3:24....Here is what we would have. "being justified without a cause by his grace."

Do you see the meaning
Now, what does that mean?....I will tell you that God really blessed ~~my~~ heart with this tremendous truth. And that is: that there isn't one thing in my life that deserves God's righteousness. Not one thing....

God's righteousness ^{Came} ~~come~~ to me totally by His grace. To understand the grace of God you must understand this ~~word~~ ^{word} "~~without a cause~~" "gift". It is "without a cause." There is no reason in you or in me as to why God should save us.....None.....

There will be on one in heaven who will say: "Isn't God lucky to have me".....There will be ~~one~~ ^{NO} one in heaven going around braging about what they did for God....No one....WHY?....Because God never accepts anyone that way...

Now, that is a shocker to someone who has spent their whole life trying to please God. You know.....God doesn't accept us that way....

And the question is why? Why doesn't God accept some of the good things that you and I do?

Well, first of all, God doesn't think that any of the things we do ^{are} good.....Because the Bible says that all that we do falls short of glorifying Him. Even when we do good things, the real movtive is to impress somebody else. You see, it is all on the horizontal. Not glorifying God.

And so, as a result God doesn't accept that which we call good. ~~we in any way, shape or form could do good things~~ in order that we would be pleaseing to God, we wouldn't give God what he wanted in the first place when he created us.

Do you know what God wants from us? He wants our praïsse, our adoration, our thanksgiving, our love. That is what he wants from us.

And do you know ~~something~~, God is going to get it whether we like it or not. He sure is.

Ephesians chapter 1 says that God has chosen us before the foundation of the world. WHY? So that we would be to the priase of the glory of his grace.

Grace means that God is going to let me go to heaven even thought there wasn't any cause or reason for allowing me to go. Friends, that is what grace is all about. Oh, how we need to understand God's grace. You didn't chose God....That is airagent sin to think that. God chose you before the foundation of the world so that you might praise the glory of his grace....Jesus told his disciples: Fellows, I choose you. You didn't chose me. And he taught a principle that ~~was~~ true today, just as much as it was true then. GOD CALLED AND CHOOSE YOU.....You didn't chose him.

You say, "Well, I came to Jesus." No, you didn't! God chose you. YOU just responded ~~WHY? So that you would praise his grace.~~

You see, if ~~you~~ choose God. ^{then I could} ~~you would~~ get to heaven and say: "Don't forget God, I choose you. You are lucky to have me here."

That is not what the Bible says. The Bible says that God choose you. And God wants you to praise his grace. We have been justified without a single cause. In other words, none of ^{us} you deserve to be saved.

You say ~~"Well, let's close the Bible and go home."~~ ^{But you see,} Because God doesn't save ^{us} ~~people~~ because ^{we} ~~they~~ deserve to be saved.

He saves us when we don't deserve it. As a matter of fact, God even saves us when we don't even love him. He saves us. ^{Then we learn about his} great love and then we praise his grace. ^{Then we serve him} Tremendous.

(2F) I also, notice in Vs 24, ^{Not only the source of the purchase but that} that the method that God uses is called redemption. And it is in Christ Jesus. Redemption is a purchase. It is buying something. But it is in Christ Jesus. There isn't any redemption that is not in Christ. That is the point.

(2F) Now, come to Vs 25. The second thing about the necessity of God's righteousness. ~~First~~ First of all, it was through a purchase, Vs 24. Now, ^{Vs 25} secondly, it must be through a propitiation.

Now, what does propitiation mean? Basical it means "satisfication of present requirements." ..Satisfication of present requirements....

You see, the law demands, because we are sinners, death. ^{and} That law must be satisfied. That is what propitiation ^{all about} means.

This word is also translated "mercy seat". Now, why is it translated "mercy seat"? If you would picture with me for a moment the tabernacle. The central building of that tabernacle was divided into two parts. The first part was called the "holy place". On the north side was the table of show bread. On the south ^{side} side was the seven golden candle sticks. And right before the vail that divided this 'Holy Place' was the altar of incenses. And the priest went into the vail, into the Holy of Holies, He went in there once a year. It was called the day of atonement. (Yom Kipper).

Now, why did he do that? He went into the Holy of Holies once a year to apply blood to a place called the "mercy seat".

Now, what was inside of the Holy of Holies in the main building of the tabernacle? Inside that Holy of Holies was the ark of the covenant. ~~the ark of the covenant~~

And in the Ark of the covenant you had Arron's rod, a pot of manna, and the tablets of the law. Really it was a summary of the whole history of Israel. It was right there in the Ark of the covenant.

Now, on top of the Ark was a ^{slap}slap of gold. And at each end of the ~~side~~ ^{slap} of gold were two angels. And these angels were looking down upon the slap. These angels were called ~~cherubs~~ cherubs. Cherubs are angels of judgment. And they are looking down on this golden slap.

And once a year the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies and put the blood of the sacrificed animal right on the mercy seat. And this was a remainder of the death angel that passed over the house of Israel during their bondage in Egypt. These angels would not put judgement on Israel if the blood was there. ^{no death penit} It was a constant type and symbol.

Do you know what that was called? It was called propitiation. Satisfying what the law demanded. The angels of judgement ~~should~~ should met out death to everyone of us as sinners. But the blood satisfied it.

So, When christ died on the cross he satisfied all the demands of the law. Period..It is finished. ...And according to the Bible there are two things about this that are tremendously important *for you to remember*

1F Vs 25...Faith in His blood. Your confidence must be in the blood and the death of Jesus Christ. There is no other way. It must be in His death.

2F Secondly, I notice that forgiveness of sin is at stake. According to Vs 25 "This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed."

~~God~~ / God forgives because of something Christ did. Not because we have special gifts or talents.....Again there is nothing we can go... Nothing.....You see, friends, when ^{God} ~~Christ~~ ask you to believe, he is asking you to believe completely in that act on the cross.

That is the beauty about Christianity. God isn't asking you to go out and run around the church 10 times, or trying to prove yourself worthy, God is saying, "Listen, through that one act on the cross forgiveness was provided to the whole world. Total payment....Free forever....It is there... JUST BELIEVE IT.....*in order to be saved*

not

Just believe his death. Because then when you are in heaven you will praise the glory of his grace. That God provided the way for you to get there

(3E) Now, the third thing that I would like you to know about the necessity for God's righteousness is His patience.

Vs ²⁵ ~~25~~....says "because of his forbearance"....Forbearance is the word for patience. Now, why was God so patient?

(1P) Number one, that He might be just, (Vs 26.) Why was that? If God is just he must punish sin. He will not overlook ~~sin~~ ^{SIN!} He will not ~~by-pass~~ ^{PASS} ~~it~~ ^{SIN!} He will not ignore it. He must punish sin, *of his just.*

God was patient until Christ went to the cross because now He can ~~now~~ be declared fully, manifested to all ~~men~~ ^{people}, JUST.

Now, God was always just. But this one act of Christ on the cross proved it to the world. When Christ died and paid for the righteous demands of the law, The law says that the soul that sins it must die. Jesus died. He paid ~~for~~ ^{FOR} it. Therefore, God is just. He didn't ignore sin. ~~It~~ ^{SIN} has been paid for.

Some people say, "You Christians believe you can ignore sin once you are saved." Oh, no...You don't understand.

God never ignores anybody's sin. He paid for it alright. His own dear son went to the Cross and paid for all sin. It cost something alright. Jesus died for us. The death we should have died.

(2F) And the second thing is that He would ~~not~~ be the justifier. God was patient until he could justify. *That's what vs 26 says*

Well, wasn't man always counted to be righteous? Yes...all by faith. ~~You see, faith always.~~ ^{But} Faith in something. FAITH IN WHAT? ...Faith in God's provision. In His method of redemption. Jesus Christ dieing on the cross. God now can justify everyone who believes...WHY?....Because ~~it~~ ^{SIN} is all paid for. No need for anymore payment. So, anyone who believes ~~God~~ ^{in Christ,}

God can now say "YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS". He pronounce you righteous. All because Jesus died for you *on the cross and you believe in that act.*

In other words, God ~~sometimes~~ looks at you and he sees Jesus. When He looks at your standing He sees Jesus.

Jesus died ^{for us} for you. That is why ^{we} you are pronounced ~~un~~righteous. Not because ^{we} you performed for God. That is not the way to live the christian life. Just let go and believe what Christ has already done for you. Accept it. Just ~~trust~~ trust it. *Then you live for Christ*

If you say in your heart, "Listen, I am not accepting God's provision, His propitiation, His purchase, I am going to try and do it myself. I am going to live my own life and so forth."

I want to remind you that the attribute of God ^{Justice} ~~which is non-transferrable~~ non-transferrable, demands that you pay for your own sin. So, if you live your own life without Jesus, you will pay for your own sin. And the wages of sin is death. Death meaning "eternal separation from God in a place called Hell"....That is your destiny if you choose to follow that philosophy.

Faith in the Cross - death Jesus
But ~~the transferrable kind, in which~~ God will pronounce you righteous, *and He does so* is ~~because~~ because you believe that Jesus Christ already paid for everything the law demanded. It is all over. God ask you to believe it. WILL YOU BELIEVE IT? *Will you confess Jesus as Lord - I Trust you will.*

Let's close with prayer

3D (NATURE)
The Consequence of Justification