**CROSS WORDS**

**An on-line Bible study**

**Lesson 4**

*This week we will look to God’s Word for our third Cross Word. When you learn the Cross Word, please fill in the shaded boxes with each letter of the word. Each week we’ll add another word.*

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Readings, unless noted, taken from:

 [*Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hbehv?ref=BibleEHV.1Jn4.10&off=3&ctx=ive+through+him.+10%EF%BB%BF~This+is+love%3a+not+th). (2019). Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House.

**Romans 3:21-28**

**21But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, m through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—26he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. 27Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. 28For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**1. Textual Thoughts**

* **Righteousness of God –** The Greek for this is δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ. God is the source of this “righteousness.” The root of this Greek word has the meaning, “To declare not guilty, to acquit.” It’s the pronouncement of the judge at the close of the trial when the evidence doesn’t support the accusation. This word or its root verb “to justify,” occur 7 times in these 8 verses and dominates. To be “right” with God means to be without guilt. Where there is no guilt, there is no punishment. When God is called righteous, it means that he, in his very nature, has no guilt because he is absolutely perfect. This also means that his judgments are always correct and rightly motivated. Obviously, this topic is huge.
* **The Doctrine of Justification**

-**Universal Justification** = God declares all people “not guilty” for sin through the work of Jesus Christ.

-**Objective** **Justification** = God declares all people “not guilty” for sin through the work of Jesus Christ, whether they know it or not. We note that **all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**

-**Subjective** **Justification** = God declares me/a believer “not guilty” for sin through the work of Jesus Christ. Faith receives what God had declared. This is personal justification. It is the righteousness given **through faith** in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

* **This is the Righteousness that “has been made known”** – Since this righteousness is from God, namely, that he is the source of it, for us to know it, he must make it known. In the Greek text this verb is in the perfect stem. This means that it is a past event or action which remains in effect in the present. God’s righteousness, therefore, has been made known is continues to be made know. How? But the proclamation of the completed work of Jesus Christ; the Gospel.
* **the Law and the Prophets testify** – This refers to the Old Testament Bible.
* **This is the Righteousness that “is given”** – One can’t earn it, buy it, steal it, etc. So, **all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**.
* Sacrifice of Atonement/Atoning Sacrifice – The work of Christ through which Justification happens. Please review Lesson 3 textual thoughts
* The Atonement Cover – Please review Lesson 3 textual thoughts
* Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle [later the temple] with the blood of the goat to make atonement for the people.
* **“he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished”** – Please review Lesson 3 textual thoughts
* Jesus is our Great High Priest – Please review Lesson 3 textual thoughts
* **he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished** – These are the sins committed before Jesus died on Calvary. Those believers trusted in that Atonement and believed in the promises.
* **God is just** – This is one of the attributes of God. It means he **never** makes an error in judgment.

**2. What does the Bible section from Romans 3:21-28 teach us?**

 A. What is the righteousness that comes from the Law? **TO LIVE THE LAW PERFECTLY = NO GUILT**

 B. What is the righteousness that comes through faith? **GOD’S ACQUITTAL THROUGH JESUS’ WORK**

 C. What is true about every person except Jesus? **ALL HAVE SINNED**

 D. How do we know we have sinned? **THE LAW TEACHES & SHOWS US THIS**

 E. What does Paul mean when he says that “all fall short of the glory of God?” **NO ONE LIVES UP TO THE GLORY OF GOD; TO WHAT GOD DEMANDS; HOW GOD ORIGINALLY MADE US TO BE.**

 F. How might you personally develop as part of your Bible study and prayer life a way in which to evaluate how often you fall short of the glory of God?

 G. When one evaluates one’s sins based on the law, what does that lead the believer to do? **REPENT**

 H. Why is it so important to hold on to the demonstration of God’s of his righteousness? **IN THE WORK OF CHRIST THERE IS FORGIVENESS. THROUGH THAT WORK GOD HAS JUSTIFIED THE WORLD AND ALSO ME!**

 I. Where does God reveal this work for us? **IN THE WORD OF GOD**

 J. Since it is through the revealed word that God reveals his justification, what does this mean for us?

 **WE NEED TO REGULARLY READ, HEAR, AND DIGEST WHAT GOD’S WORD REVEALS – BIBLE STUDY!**

 K. What does God’s declaration of “not guilty” mean for you personally? How will you live & apply it?

 L. What do we, along with Paul, maintain? Why is this important to do?

3. Are there any verses from this section that would be good to memorize?

4. Our CrossWord for this lesson is what God does. He **JUSTIFIES.**

For further study

* Read Romans 4:1-25
1. [*The New International Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/niv2011?ref=BibleNIV.Ro3.28&off=0&ctx=hat+requires+faith.+~28%C2%A0For+we+maintain+t). (2011). (Ro 3:28). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)