



But now righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus

Salvation is in Christ

Romans 3:21-26

Discussion Starter (Choose one of these to get your group talking)

- A. What is your favorite movie? Your favorite actor or actress? Why?
 - B. Have you ever taken part in a political march or demonstration? What was the cause? Why did you choose to act (this is not a time for a political speech, it is a time to explain what caused you to move from agreeing with an idea to acting upon your belief)?
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From today's lesson (Groups should decide on which passages below to read and study)

Acts 16:11-40 Romans 3 and 6 (might focus on 3:9-31 and/or the whole of chapter 6)

1. Why did Paul and his companions go to the river? What did they expect to find?
2. What do you think they (Paul and his companions) said to the women who were gathered?
 - a. In what ways would it have been similar to what was said to the Jailer?
 - b. In what ways may it have differed?
 - c. What was response of Lydia?
3. What do you think it means when the texts states “the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message”?
 - a. Did Lydia have a choice as to how she would respond?
 - b. Do you see any implications in this incident about our prayers for others?
4. How did Paul and Silas end up in Jail?
 - a. Why were the people upset with them?
 - b. Were the charges against them true?
 - c. How were they treated by the people of Philippi and the Jailer?
5. What happened at midnight?
 - a. Why would the Jailer have attempted to take his own life?
 - b. How did Paul keep him from doing so?
 - c. What was the Jailer’s question?

6. What was Paul's response to the Jailer's question?
 - a. What did the Jailer know about Jesus?
 - b. How did he learn about the message of Jesus (the gospel)?

7. What was the Jailer's response to the message of salvation in Jesus Christ?
 - a. What evidence do you find of his faith?
 - b. His repentance?
 - c. What happens that very evening?

8. Re-state Paul's description of mankind in Romans 3:9-20.

9. Some have said, "You need to know the bad news before you can truly appreciate how 'good' the good news really is..." What's the bad news? (What does the law allow you to do?)

10. Where does righteous come from? Who needs it?

11. What demonstrates God's grace to mankind? What is "faith"?

12. How is God's justice shown in Jesus?

13. How does faith negate the possibility of anyone boasting? What is there to boast about?

14. What points do you think Paul is trying to make in Romans 6?

15. What is the significance of being baptized into Jesus' death and being resurrected with him?
What does this say the life of a Christian?

16. What does it mean to be "under grace"? Why would Paul make the statements/ask the questions he does in Romans 6:1 and 6:15?

17. Harmonize Romans 3:23 and 6:23.

Group Application

1. How can your group help in sharing the good news of Jesus with others?
2. Who do we want to pray for that their hearts may be opened to respond to the gospel?