



Justified by Faith

Romans 3:21-31

Something to Start Us Off

- How would you describe your earliest impression of God? Did you see Him as an angry judge? A loving Father? An impersonal power or force?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 3:21-31 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- 3:26 That he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- 3:28 One is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* The word "propitiation" that Paul uses in v.25 is the same word used in the Greek version of the Old Testament for the "mercy seat." Another way to say this would be "atoning sacrifice." See Exodus 25:17-22 and 1 John 2:2 and 4:10).

Discussion Questions:

- How can we be justified by his grace as a gift? (v.24)
- What does it mean to be justified by faith? (vv.28, 30)
- In the early 1500s Martin Luther was one person who always thought of God's righteousness in terms of his active justice that punished sinners. While studying Romans (esp. 1:17), he began to think differently.
 - How does this passage contribute to your picture of God?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 3:23-24 this week. These verses tell us that unworthy people (like us) can still be made right with God.