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Set Right by Grace

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **July 17, 2016**

Romans 3:21-31

Introduction: The apostle, in this chapter, carries on his discourse concerning **justification**. He had already **proved the guilt** BOTH of **Gentiles** and **Jews**. Now in this chapter, **I.** He answers some objections that might be made against what he had said about the Jews, Romans 3:1-8. **II.** He asserts the guilt and corruption of mankind in common, both Jews and Gentiles, Romans 3:9-18. **III.** He argues thence that **justification must needs be by FAITH, and not by the LAW**, which he gives several reasons for (Romans 3:19-31). The many digressions in his writings render his discourse sometimes a little difficult, but his scope is evident. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/romans-3.html>)

Romans 3:19-20, Now we KNOW that what things soever **the LAW** saith, it saith to them who are **UNDER the LAW:** that **every mouth may be stopped**, and **all the world may become guilty** before God. Therefore by the DEEDS of the law there shall **NO flesh be JUSTIFIED** in his sight: **FOR by the LAW is the knowledge of sin.**

Justified defined 1344, to render (cause to BE, or to BECOME) **just or innocent: FREE, be RIGHTEOUS** (holy [PURE: CLEAN in heart]).

Thought 1. This purity of heart (spirit) took place when we BELIEVED (entrusted our spiritual well-being to Christ) on Jesus (Yahshua), at which time the “filth of the flesh (sin nature received from Adam, who received it from Satan)” was WASHED away by the Holy Spirit. This is also called being “baptized” by the Holy Spirit. Another analogy is the Holy Spirit CUT AWAY (circumcised) the “flesh” (sin nature), from our spirit.

Acts 1:5 ...John truly **baptized (WASH)** with WATER but ye shall be **baptized (WASH)** with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

1 Corinthians 6:11, And such were some of you: but ye are **WASHED**, but ye are sanctified, but ye are **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the **Spirit** of our God.

Ephesians 4:4-5, There IS one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord (RULER), **one faith, ONE baptism** (great sanctification [act of making holy {PURE: CLEAN in heart}])...

Romans 2:28-29, For he is NOT a Jew, which is one **outwardly**; neither is that **circumcision**, which is outward in the **flesh (BODY)**: But he is a Jew, which is one **inwardly**; and **circumcision** is that of the **heart (MIND)**, in the **spirit**, and not in the **letter (scripture)**; whose **praise** is not of (from) men, but of (from) God.

Thought 2. What this means is we do NOT have the old sin nature (flesh) any longer. We only have the “NATURE” of our NEW Father, which is LIFE. And now, our job is to learn from the scriptures HOW to please him and live a “holy PURE (CLEAN) life.

Romans 8:8-9, So then they that are IN the FLESH (*nature from Adam received from Satan*) cannot please God. But YE are **NOT IN the FLESH** but **IN the Spirit,** if so be that the Spirit of God (Yahweh) **DWELL IN you.**

NOTE: And all the world - Both Jews and Gentiles, for so the strain of the argument shows. That is, all BY NATURE; **all who are out of Christ; all who are not pardoned. All are guilty** where there is not some scheme contemplating forgiveness, and which is not applied to purify them. The apostle in all this argument speaks of what man is, and ever would be, without some **plan of justification appointed by God.**

May become - May “be.” They are not made guilty by the Law; but the argument from the Law, and from fact, proves that they are guilty.

Guilty before God - “subject to the judgment of God.” The phrase is taken from courts of justice. It is applied to a man who has not vindicated or defended himself; against whom therefore the charge or the indictment is found true; and who is in consequence **subject to punishment.** The idea is that of subjection to punishment; but always because the man personally **deserves it,** and because being unable to vindicate himself, **he OUGHT to be punished.** It is never used to denote simply an obligation TO punishment, but with reference to **the fact that the punishment is personally deserved.**” This word, rendered “guilty,” is not used elsewhere in the New Testament, nor is it found in the Septuagint.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

Romans 3:21, But now the **righteousness of God** **WITHOUT** the **LAW** is manifested, being witnessed by **the LAW** and the **PROPHETS...**

NOTE: But now - The apostle, having shown the **entire failure** of all attempts to be justified by the “Law,” whether among Jews or Gentiles, proceeds to state fully the plan of justification by Jesus Christ in the gospel. To do this, was the main design of the Epistle, Romans 1:17. He makes, therefore, in the close of this chapter, an explicit statement of the nature of the doctrine; and in the following parts of the Epistle he fully proves it, and illustrates its effects.

The righteousness of God - God’s plan of justifying people; see the note at Romans 1:17.

Without the law - In a way different from personal obedience to the Law. It does not mean that God abandoned his Law; or that Jesus Christ did not regard the Law, for he came to “magnify” it Isaiah 42:21; or that sinners after they are justified have no regard to the Law; but it means simply what the apostle had been endeavoring to show, that **justification could NOT be accomplished by personal obedience to ANY LAW** of Jew or Gentile, and that it **MUST BE** accomplished in **SOME OTHER WAY.**

Being witnessed - Being borne witness to. It was not a new doctrine; it was found in the Old Testament. The apostle makes this observation with special reference to the Jews. He does not declare any new thing, but that which was really declared in their own sacred writings.

By the law - This expression here evidently denotes, as it did commonly among the Jews, the **FIVE BOOKS** of Moses. And the apostle means to say that this doctrine was found in those books; **NOT that it was in the Ten Commandments, or in the Law,** strictly so called. It is not a part of “LAW” to declare justification except by strict and perfect obedience. That it was found “IN” those books; the apostle shows by the case of **Abraham;** Lev. 18:5; Deut. 30:12-14, in Romans 10:5-11; compare Exodus 34:6-7.

And the prophets - Generally, the remainder of the Old Testament. The phrase “the LAW and the PROPHETS” comprehended the whole of the Old Testament; Matthew 5:17; Matthew 11:13; Matthew 22:40; Acts 13:15; Acts 28:23. That this doctrine was contained

in the prophets, the apostle showed by the passage quoted from **Habakkuk 2:4**, in Romans 1:17, **“The just shall live (ALIVE) by faith.”** The same thing he showed in Rom. 10:11, from Isaiah 28:16; Isaiah 49:23; Romans 4:6-8, from Psalm 32:1-11. The same thing is fully taught in Isaiah 53:11; Daniel 9:24. Indeed, the general tenor of the Old Testament – the appointment of sacrifices, etc. **taught that man was a sinner**, and that **he could NOT be justified by obedience to the MORAL law.**

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

Thought 1. He means “man” is a SINNER by nature. Because of Adam, we’re born sinners.

Romans 3:22, *Even the righteousness of God which is by FAITH of Jesus (Yahshua) Christ (Messiah) unto ALL and upon ALL them that BELIEVE: for there is no difference...*

NOTE: Through faith "points to the fact that faith is NOT a merit, earning salvation. It is no more than the MEANS through which the GIFT is given." (Morris)

ii. "But faith is not 'trusting' or 'expecting' God to DO something, but relying on His testimony concerning

the PERSON of Christ as His Son, and the WORK of Christ FOR US on the cross...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/romans-3.html>)

Ephesians 2:8-10, For by **GRACE** are ye saved **through FAITH**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **GIFT** of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, CREATED IN Christ Jesus unto **good WORKS**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 John 5:1, Whosoever **believeth** that Jesus (Yahshua) is the Christ is born of God...

2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Therefore if any man *be* IN Christ, *he is* a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are **of God**, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, **not imputing** their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath **MADE him** (Jesus [Yahshua]) *to BE SIN FOR US*, who knew NO SIN; that WE might **be MADE** the **righteousness OF God** IN him.

Thought 1. Notice, righteousness is not IMPUTED to us, but we are MADE the righteousness of God by the FAITH that he gave us when we understood and BELIEVED the gospel about what Jesus (Yahshua) his son did on the cross.

Romans 3:23, For **ALL have SINNED**, and **come short** of the **GLORY of God...**

Thought 1. In Romans 5, Paul is led to explain WHY ALL humans, by BIRTH, are under the POWER of SIN. As he'll reveal, it's in our NATURE at BIRTH! But, by GRACE through "FAITH" in Jesus (Yahshua), it was corrected by the Holy Spirit when we BELIEVED the gospel: entrusting our spiritual well-being to Christ, the Son of God (Yahweh).

Romans 5:6, 12-14, 18-19, For when we were yet without strength, in DUE TIME Christ died for the ungodly.

...Wherefore, as by one man (*Adam*) **sin entered into the world**, and **DEATH by sin**; and so **death passed upon ALL men**, FOR THAT ALL HAVE SINNED: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Nevertheless **death reigned** from Adam to Moses, **even over them that had NOT** sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

...Therefore as by the **offence** of ONE (*Adam*) **judgment** came upon **ALL men** to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of ONE (*Jesus*) the free gift came upon ALL men unto justification of life. For as by **ONE** man's **disobedience** MANY were **MADE sinners**, so by the **obedience** of **ONE** shall MANY be **MADE righteous**.

Thought 2. Again, we are MADE righteous. He did NOT say it was imputed to us. Although, he uses "imputed" in other verses, that's NOT the only way to describe what happened to us when we BELIEVED on Jesus (Yahshua).

Romans 3:24-25, Being **justified** freely by **his GRACE** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (*Yahshua*): Whom God hath SET FORTH to be a **propitiation (an expiator [the one that makes amend])** through **FAITH in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the **remission** (forgiveness; pardon) of sins that are past, through the **forbearance** of God;

NOTE: i. The word translated **redemption** had its origin describing the **release** of **prisoners** of war on PAYMENT of a PRICE and was known as the **"ransom."** As time went on, it was extended to include the FREEING of SLAVES, again by the payment of a PRICE.

ii. The idea of **redemption** means that Jesus *bought* us; therefore, we belong to Him. Paul expressed this thought in another letter: *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/romans-3.html>)

1 Peter 1:18-21, Forasmuch as ye **know** that ye were not **redeemed (ransom** [buy out of servitude or penalty; to rescue; to deliver]) with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious **BLOOD of Christ**, as of a **lamb** without blemish and without spot: Who verily was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do **believe** in **God**, that **raised him up** from the **dead**, and gave him **glory**; that YOUR FAITH and HOPE might be IN God.

Romans 3:26, To declare, I say, at this time **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**: that he might be **JUST**, and the JUSTIFIER of him which **BELIEVETH** in Jesus (*Yahshua*).

Thought 1. Notice, in order to RECEIVE the benefit of Christ's death, we HAD to BELIEVE. When we did, LIFE came and we were "MADE" righteous by FAITH in Jesus (*Yahshua*). Paul gets into that truth in Romans 10. But SOME Christians don't continue to read his letter to the Romans and are deceived to "believe" that FAITH is NOT required to receive LIFE. This is a TRUTH that Paul made plain in many of his letters!

Romans 10:1-4, Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for **Israel** is, that they might BE SAVED. For I bear them record that they have a ZEAL of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish **their OWN righteousness**, have NOT submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the **end (GOAL) of the law for righteousness** to **EVERY ONE that BELIEVETH**.

Galatians 3:11, But that **no man is justified** by the **LAW** in the sight of God, it is evident: for, THE **JUST SHALL LIVE** (be ALIVE: having LIFE) **by FAITH**.

Thought 2. Now, let's go back to Romans chapters 5 - 6 where Paul continues to teach about what happened when we "BELIEVED" on Jesus (*Yahshua*) for spiritual well-being.

Romans 5:20, 6:1-7, Moreover the **law entered**, that the **offence** might **abound**. But where sin abounded, **grace** did much more abound: That as **SIN** hath reigned unto **DEATH**, even so might **GRACE** reign through **righteousness** unto **ETERNAL LIFE** by Jesus Christ our Lord.

...What shall we say then? Shall we CONTINUE IN SIN, that GRACE may abound? **God forbid**. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, **LIVE** any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized INTO** Jesus Christ were baptized **INTO his death?**

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into **death**: that like as Christ was **RAISED UP from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also **WALK** in **NEWNESS of life**. For if we have been planted together in the **LIKENESS** of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our **OLD MAN** IS **crucified with him**, that the **body** of sin might be **destroyed**, that henceforth we should NOT **serve** sin. For he that is **DEAD IS FREED from SIN**.

Thought 3. This scripture just said our "OLD MAN" is DEAD. That's speaking of the SIN NATURE with which we were BORN. Now, we have ONLY God's NATURE.

Romans 3:27, Where is **boasting** then? **It is excluded. By what law? of WORKS? Nay: but by the LAW of FAITH.**

NOTE: Where is there ground or occasion of **boasting** or **pride**? Since **ALL have sinned**, and since all have failed of being able to JUSTIFY themselves by obeying the Law, and since all are alike dependent on the mere **mercy** of God in Christ (Messiah), all ground of boasting is of course taken away. This refers particularly to the Jews, who were much addicted to boasting of their special privileges; See the note at Romans 3:1, etc.

The law of faith - The rule, or arrangement which proclaims that **we have no merit**; that we are LOST sinners; and **that we are to be justified only by FAITH.**

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

Romans 3:28, Therefore we **conclude** that a man is **justified by FAITH** without the DEEDS of the LAW.

NOTE: Without works as a meritorious ground of justification. The apostle, of course, does NOT mean that Christianity does NOT produce good works, or that they who are justified will not obey the Law, and be holy; but that **no righteousness of their own will be the ground of their justification**. They are sinners; and as such can have no claim to be treated as righteous. God has devised a plan by which, they may be pardoned and saved; and that is by **faith alone**. This is the grand uniqueness of the Christian religion. This was the special point in the reformation from popery. **Luther** often called this doctrine of justification by faith the article upon which the church stood or fell - articulus stantis, vel cadentis ecclesiae - and it is so.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

Titus 3:8, This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have **BELIEVED in** God might be careful to **maintain good WORKS**.

James 2:15-17, If a brother or sister be **NAKED**, and **destitute** of daily **FOOD**, ...And one of you SAY unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding **ye GIVE** them NOT those things which are **NEEDFUL** to the body; what doth it **PROFIT (benefit)?** Even so **faith**, if it hath not **WORKS**, is **DEAD**, being alone.

Dead defined 3498, a corpse (something that is no longer ACTIVE [working, busy]). Dead, inactive (idle [DOING nothing]).

Thought 1. This definition helps because we KNOW "faith" is NOT of death. It is spiritual, and from God, therefore, it pertains to LIFE. It is also a fruit of our spirit: a GIFT of God produced by understanding his word. (Rom.10:17)

James 2:18, Yea, a man may say, Thou hast **faith**, and I have **works**: **SHEW** me thy **faith** without thy **works**, and I will **SHEW thee my FAITH BY my WORKS.**

NOTE: The appeal of James is clear and logical. We can't "**SEE**" someone's **faith**, but we CAN SEE their WORKS.

You can't **SEE** faith without works, but you can demonstrate the **reality** of **FAITH BY WORKS**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/james-2.html>)

James 2:19-23, Thou **believest** that there is one God; thou **DOEST** well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou **KNOW**, O vain man, that **faith** without **works** is **dead** (IDLE [inactive; DOING nothing])? Was not Abraham our father justified (**SHOWN righteous**) by **WORKS**, when he had **offered** Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith **wrought with his works**, and by **works** was **faith** made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was **imputed** unto him for **righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God.

Thought 2. What he said is Christians who are NOT profiting anybody by putting their FAITH to work are just like the demons who are NOT helping anybody either!

Romans 3:29-30, Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is **ONE God**, which shall **justify the circumcision by faith**, and **uncircumcision through faith**.

NOTE: By faith ... through faith - There is no difference in the **meaning** of these expressions. Both denote that **FAITH** is the instrumental **CAUSE** of justification, or acceptance with God. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

Romans 3:31, Do we then **make void the law through faith**? **God forbid: yea, we establish** (**STAND UP, present** [exhibit to VIEW]) **the Law**.

Thought 1. What Paul meant is clearly stated in Romans 13. So we'll go there now, and then we'll get a "good understanding" of what he said here, in Romans 3:31.

Romans 13:8-10, Owe no man any thing, but to **LOVE** one another: for he that **Loveth** another HATH **fulfilled** (**satisfy** [MEET requirements], **complete**; performed) **the LAW**. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, and IF there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt LOVE thy neighbour as** (just like) **THYSELF**. **LOVE worketh NO ill** to his neighbour: therefore **LOVE is the fulfilling** (**completion** [execution: performance]) **of the law**.

Thought 2. From what we just SAW, this is the conclusion the Holy Spirit revealed to me a few days ago, along with MORE scripture to confirm its TRUE.. "To OBEY God's (Yahweh's) commandments under his New covenant, spoken of to John by Jesus (Yahshua), is to fulfil (perform) the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of the **LAW** Yahweh desired under the Old covenant. Through faith, we exhibit to view the Law."

In truth, the **MORALS** of BOTH Covenants are the **SAME**. Therefore, even though God (Yahweh) made a New Covenant, he did NOT make new **MORALS** for it.

1 John 3:22-23, And whatsoever we **ASK**, we receive of him (Yahweh), because we **KEEP** his commandments, and **DO** those things that are pleasing in **HIS** sight. And **THIS** is **his COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE on** the name (authority) of his son Jesus (Yahshua) Christ and **LOVE one another**, AS he gave us commandment.

John 13:34-35, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; AS (like) **I have LOVED you**, that ye also **love** one another. By this shall all men **know** that ye are my disciples, IF ye have **LOVE** one to another.