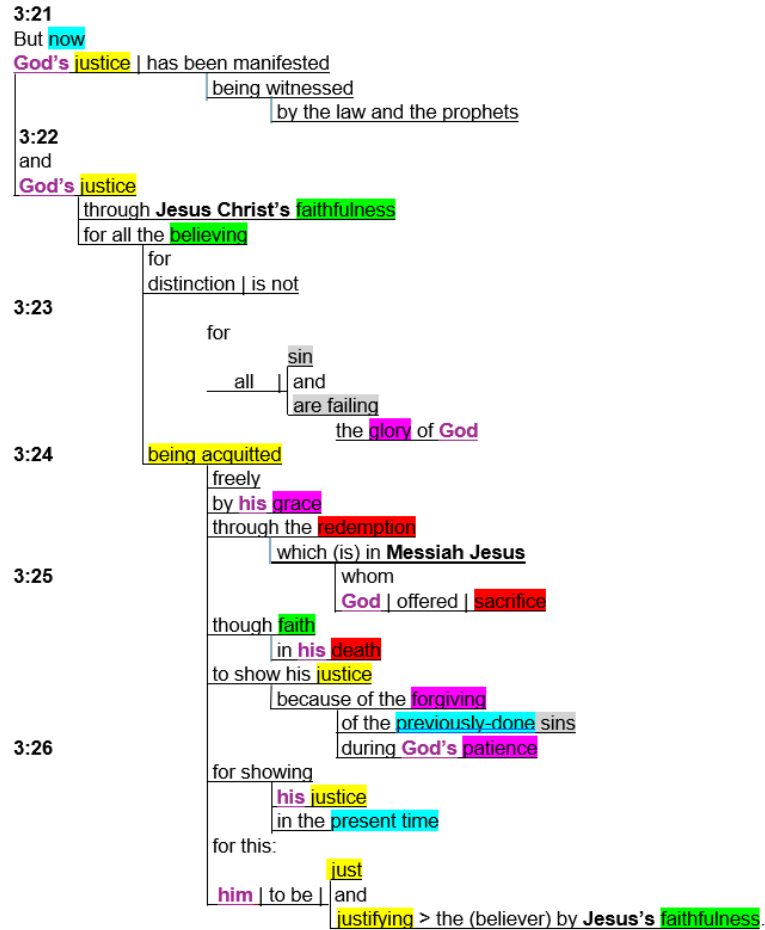


Epistle to the Romans, 3:21-31



Themes

- God, his. 8x
- Just, justice, justify, acquit. 7x
- Jesus, Christ, his. 6x
- Believe, faith, faithfulness. 4x
- Patience, grace, forgive, glory. 4x
- Redemption, sacrifice, death. 3x
- Manifest, show, showing. 3x
- Previous, now, present. 3x

Outline

God has manifested his justice. 3:21
 In the Tanakh. 3:21
 By Messiah's faithfulness. 3:22
 For all the faithful. 3:22
 All sin and fail to attain glory. 3:23
 But God acquits all the faithful. 3:24
 How? 3:25
 Why? 3:25-26

Romans 3:21-26 (NRSVue)

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe.

- Righteousness: God acquits sinners.
- Faith/believe: Faithfulness, loyalty.

Romans 3:21-26 (GJC)

²¹ But now, apart from our keeping his laws, God has displayed how he acquits, as promised in the Scriptures. ²² God acquits all who are faithful to him, because Messiah Jesus was faithful.

- Display: Jesus' life, death, resurrection.
- Scriptures: Examples and promises.
- Because: Substitutionary perfection.

For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ...

- Sinned: Timeless aorist = always true.
- Glory: Honor & everlasting life. 2:7, 12
- Justified: Acquitted.
- Redemption: Act of setting free.

God has no favorites, ²³ since everyone sins and fails to earn the everlasting life which God promised. ²⁴ So, God freely and graciously acquits everyone, setting people free because of what Messiah Jesus has done.

- Sins: Cause — Prone to do evil.
- Fails: Effect — Excluded from life.
- Free: Remedy — See verse 25.

²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ...

- Passed over: As he forgave David's evil.
- Demonstrated: Do fallen spirits charge God with favoritism towards fallen humans?

No forgiveness for fallen spirits

- Tanakh: Gen. 3:15; 6:1-4; Isa. 14; Ezek. 28
- 2nd temple: 1 Enoch 6-16
- N.T.: Rev. 20:10; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4
- Church: Apo. Abraham; Test. Solomon
- Talmud: Little interest in spirits.

Note: Bible readers wonder about how a just God could forgive unjust humans, long before Jesus died to forgive sinners.

²⁵ God sent Jesus to die as a sacrifice to forgive those who are faithful to him. This shows that God was still just, when he forgave people's sins before Jesus died. 26 God did that because he is very tolerant.

- Forgive: Release others. Accept loss.
- Just: Reliable, legitimate authority.
- Tolerant: Tolerance ≠ approval.

²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

- Demonstrate: To humans and to spirits.
- Righteous: Still perfectly honest.
- Justifies: Acquitting the guilty!
- One: Anyone. Faithful to Jesus.
- Jesus: Who died so that we may live!

²⁶ God did this to show, from now on, that he is always a just judge, even when the acquits guilty people who are faithful to Jesus *who suffered death so that we humans may live forever.*

- Now: The ultimate turning point.
- Just: Always does what is right.
- Guilty: And those who die innocent.
- Jesus: Carried our sins into hell.

Romans 3:27-31 (NRSVue)

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

- Law: Yahweh requires faithfulness.
- Works: Required but often violated.

Romans 3:27-31 (GJC)

²⁷ Is anyone good enough to boast about keeping God's laws? No! Everyone violates God's written rules. So, we must obey his one law to remain faithful. ²⁸ We conclude that God acquits those who remain faithful, without having to keep all his written rules.

- Faithful: Hab. 2:4; Psa. 50:5.

²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of gentiles also? Yes, of gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one, and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

- Circumcised: Religiously Jewish.
- Uncircumcised: Ethnically Gentile.
- Same faith: Gk, 'through **the** faith.'

²⁹ Is God only for Jews? No. Is God also for Gentiles? Yes. ³⁰ There is only One True God. He acquits Jews who are faithful to him, and he also acquits Gentiles who are faithful to him.

- One: Unique, no equals, known by intuition, deduction, or revelation.
- To him: Messiah for Jews, and Lord for everyone.

³¹ Do we then overthrow the law through this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

³¹ *By only being faithful, we do not cancel God's laws. Instead, we confirm God's laws.*

- Overthrow: Abolish it or ignore it.
- Uphold: Defend it or learn from it.