

Bible Doctrine 2 – Lesson 1

God's Plan of Salvation

Romans 3:21-31

Introduction: Salvation is God's righteousness declared for someone. So far in the Book of Romans Paul has gone to great steps to prove that all men are sinners; now he will explain how sinners are saved. The theological term for salvation is *justification by faith*. Through the next several chapters of Romans justification is a word that we will hear often. Justification is the act of God when He declares the believing sinner righteous because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. Justification is an act and not a process. There are not degrees of justification. You are either justified or you are not; so each believer has the same standing before God. It is an act of God and not man. No sinner can justify himself before God. Justification does not mean that God makes us righteous but that He declares us righteous. Justification is a legal matter. God puts the righteousness of Christ on our record in the place of our own sinfulness. And nobody then can change this record.

There is some confusion between justification and sanctification. Sanctification is the process where God makes the believer more and more like Christ. The sanctification process may change from day to day. Justification never changes. When a sinner trusts Christ, God declares him righteous, and that declaration can never be undone. Because of our declared righteousness now God deals with us as if we had never sinned at all. A thorough study of these chapters will answer how and why this possible.

As Paul introduces this section he uses the word, "But." This is an important word in the Bible. Paul has painted a bleak dark picture of human sin but now a bright light breaks through the darkness. God has a plan of salvation for the sinner.

I. The revelation of God's plan of salvation. Vv.21-23

A. God's plan is _____. Vv.21

1.

2.

B. God's plan is _____. Vv.22-23

1.

2.

II. The righteousness of God's plan of salvation. Vv.24-26a

A. The _____ condition of _____. Vv.24-26a

1.

2.

3.

B. The _____ character of _____. Vv.26b

III. The reasonableness of God's plan of salvation. Vv.27-31

A. It eliminates human _____. Vv.27-28

B. It eliminates human _____. Vv.29-30

C. It eliminates human _____. Vv.31