

Romans 3:21f

vs 21 Another two sentence Gospel (add verse 22). In the above passage Paul drew a hopeless picture. No one is justified by the Law because we break it and are therefore guilty of breaking all because breaking any law of God is rebellion against our sovereign Creator. But the tune changes here in vs 21. There is a righteousness from God apart from the law, which even the Law and Prophets have told us about! He already quoted Habakkuk in Romans 1:17 and he will tell us about Abraham, a story of faith as the path to righteousness apart from the Law. Isaiah 61:10; Philippians 3:9

vs 22 Why did they chop up sentences with verse numbers? It's because Greek was often one huge run on sentence. Many of our periods and other punctuations are an attempt to get at the English equivalent. Is any one left out of this invitation? 'ALL' And what is required? believe (2Corinthians 5:21) - not as the demons do (James 2:19) trembling by not mixing it with repentance and allowing it to transform us, but as a child ready to be taught, eager to receive. Hebrews 4:2

vs 23 Part of the Romans road. Once we realize what sin is, any one in their right mind will admit to being a sinner. Missed the mark, wandered off the path. What mark? What is the standard? The glory (outshining of internal perfections) of God! I'm GUILTY! 1John 1:8 Can you say with me, "Guilty"? Quick on to the next verse.

vs 24 Now you can stop and wallow here awhile. And if there is no smile on your lips your mind/heart hasn't quite grabbed what this is saying. You and I were condemned to death! You may not have realized it, but it's a fact. Jesus provided redemption. He bought our souls from the owner (owner because of our rebellion), Satan, who planned to destroy us. It cost us nothing but cost God dearly. Grace - He set his love on me and made a way for me to stand in His holy presence, even more, to make my heart His home. THAT IS GOOD NEWS! The best any human ear could ever hear! Ephesians 2:7-10; Titus 3:5-7

vs 25 Atonement - at one meant! ...by faith in the blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin! (Hebrews 9:22) The perfect sacrificial Lamb has been slain. 1Peter 1:18-19 Apply the blood to doorposts of your heart. A demonstration of justice in that many sins of the past went without punishment. Someone had to pay because God is just. Jesus told the Father, "I will". 1John 4:10

vs 26 Genesis 18:25 Will not the Judge of the whole earth do what is right? Faith in Jesus (the salvation of God) saves us because He alone met the righteous, just demands of a holy God in our place. Galatians 3:13-14

vs 27 Faith is the hand that reaches out and obtains the promise. It claims as its own what it cannot see. All the payment, as huge as it was, was paid by Jesus. I'm a pauper receiving what makes a check from Ed McMann look like chump change. What did I do? Just reached out my hand when Jesus knocked on the door of my heart. Can I brag about saying, "come in" ? Hey, I didn't even buy a magazine or even send back the card! By faith I stretched out my hand, said 'come in'. Jesus paid it all! 1Corinthians 1:29-31

vs 28 You can never be too bad for Jesus, only too good. The Pharisees who thought they had it all together could not allow themselves to see their real condition. Acts 13:38-39; Galatians 2:16

vs 29,30 God is God of all mankind! There is no favoritism. see 2:11 There is one road to heaven, to being made right with God, faith that God has made a way! Faith in God Himself meeting the just demands of His righteousness is the way, regardless of language or culture or other misconceptions. This is the cornerstone of salvation made possible by Christ. Galatians 3:8; 6:15

vs 31 We will learn in chapter 8 how faith helps us keep the spirit of the Law by obedience to the Holy Spirit. Matthew 5:17; Jeremiah 31:33