

The Holy of Holies in the New Testament

Romans 3: 19-26

Intro:

If asked what is the most meaningful, indispensable, and crucial passage of truth in the New Testament, what would be your response. Many would cite John 3: 14-19, or 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21. These are vital truths, but my choice would be Paul's inspired paragraph in Romans 3: 19ff. This is the Holy of Holies in the NT. These are sacred revelation that reveal the "Cross."

Romans 3:9-19= A condemned human race=not one righteous man!

1. Gentile Condemnation= chapters 1-2

Paul takes great pains to show that the entire Gentile [non-Jews]

World is condemned in sin.

2. The Jew stands condemned as well= 2:28- 3; 23

Paul tells us the real purpose of having the law. [3:20] see Galatians 3:24 & 2:16

Romans 3:10ff=all under God's wrath, none righteous.

So, whether a Jew with the law or a gentile without it, all stand condemned before Holy God.

Romans 3:19, 20

3:23 =ALL have sinned!

"But Now apart from the Law..."= refers to God's new economy! God's righteousness revealed.

Great Theological truths=

1. "The Righteousness of God" vs.21

What is the "righteousness of God?"

1) It is the Person of God=Manifested vs.21 who is God? =God is Jesus!!

2) It is the Purpose of God = Love manifested in human form.

3) It is the Program of God= God's new economy of love & grace.

Note: it has been "manifested"=verb is in the perfect tense=once and for all!

Note: there are eyewitnesses to this "righteousness of God"= by the Law & the Prophets.

2. Getting Right with God is "apart from the Law." By Faith vs.22

1) All who believe can be declared righteous "through faith" vs. 22

2) All who believe can have God's love in their hearts. Rom. 5:5

Note: It is helpful to distinguish between Belief & faith

Belief= a system of truth

Faith= a personal experience

3. Apart from the Law=Means since the Cross! {God settled out case out of court} vs. 24, 26

Here Paul explains what was really "going on" the day Jesus was crucified. This is seeing the Cross from God's viewpoint. [Which is the only view that matters!]

1) Justification vrs24="being justified" see Romans 5:1

This is a lawyer's term. It pictures the Roman courtroom.

Just -as-if-I'd-never-sinned. It speaks of declared innocence. Pronounced "not guilty"

By someone in authority to do so=Holy God!

As a gift= a doron [Greek] freely given not earned.

The giver = a "full of grace" person= God the Father. It was grace from God's heart to us that declared us not

guilty.



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Note: God the loving Father has made a choice to deal with us from his heart not his justice. He prefers not to give us what we deserve, but to give us his love. [Grace]

2) **Propitiation** vrs.25