

“Just & Justifier”
Romans 3:25-26

Introduction:

1. Are You A Curious Person?
 - **IE:** When I Was Young - One Of My Favorite Things To Do Was Read Through Our Family’s Set Of The “World Book Encyclopedia!” Those Books Were My Window To The World! And One Article In One Book Would Lead Me To Another Article In Another Book! And Very Soon, There Would Be 5 To 10 Books Stacked Beside Me! I Loved – And Still Love – To Learn! I Was Curious! And - I’m Sure - So Are You - In One Way Or Another!
Because:
 - I Believe Curiosity:
 - Is Woven By God:
 - Into The Very Fabric:
 - Of Our Humanity!
 - God Made Us To Be Curious!
 - God Gave Us:
 - An Inherent Desire To:
 - Know & To Grow:
 - In Our Knowledge!
2. Now - Animals:
 - Are Also Known For Their Curiosity:
 - Recently - We’ve Seen This On Full Display:
 - At Our Home - When Our Son’s Cat:
 - First Met & Is Now Living With:
 - Our Dog!
 - And - I’m Beginning To Wonder:
 - Just Who That Curiosity Will Kill First:
 - The Cat Or The Dog?
 - But - Our Curiosity Is Different:
 - Than That Of Animals!
 - Animals Are Very Curious About:
 - The “What!”
 - Like - “What Was That?”
 - Noise!
 - Sudden Movement!
 - But - As Soon As They Figure It Out:
 - They Are Usually Satisfied!
3. But - Not Us!
 - We Want To Explore Further:
 - And To Dig Deeper!
 - We Aren’t Just Satisfied:
 - With The “What!”
 - We Want To Know & Understand The “Hows” And The “Whys” As Well!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - We’ve Been Exploring Just 3 Verses In The Book Of Romans!
 - 1 & ½ Verses Before Mothers Day!
 - 1 & ½ Verses Today!
 - Because - In These 3 Verses:
 - God Provides Answers To Some Of The Biggest Questions:
 - We Have About Sin & Salvation!
4. So - Please Turn Back With Me:
 - To Romans 3 - Where:
 - In 3:24-26 - We Find Not Only:
 - “**What**” God Offers To Us:
 - As Sinners!
 - Which Is - Salvation & Justification:
 - Before Him!
 - But Also - “**How**” God Makes It All Possible:

- And **“Why!”**

- 3:24-26 - “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: / Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; / To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus!”

5. The **“What”** Of These Verses:

- Is Justification!

- That Is - **What** It Takes:

- For You & For Me:

- As Sinners:

- To Stand Before God!

- It Takes A Righteousness:

- And A Holiness:

- Like That Of God’s!

- And - In The Gospel - This Is **“What”** God Offers! To You & To Me!

6. The Sunday Before Mother’s Day - We Explored:

- The **“How”** Of The Gospel!

- That Is - **How** Did God Make It Even Possible:

- For Sinners:

- To Have A Right Relationship With Him!

- It Was All Made Possible Through:

- The Person & Work:

- Of Jesus Christ!

- Who Shed His Blood On The Cross:

- To **Pay** The Price:

- For Our Redemption:

- From The Bondage Of Sin - **And:**

- To **Propitiate** - And Satisfy:

- The Judgment & Wrath Of God:

- Upon Us & Our Sin!

- And Since Jesus - As God’s Own Mercy Seat - “Paid It All” - Now:

- You Can Receive This Gift Of God’s Grace:

- Freely - “Through Faith In His Blood!”

- Have You Done That?

- Have You Received Jesus By Turning To & Trusting In Him?

- We Pray You Have!

7. But Then - When You Do:

- Receive Jesus As Your Savior:

- Perhaps - One Of The Biggest Questions:

- You Will Have - About God’s Work Of Salvation:

- Is **“Why?”**

- Even As John Moore Wondered:

- In A Hymn He Wrote - Simply Entitled - “Why?”

- Where He Asked:

Why did they nail him to Calvary’s tree;

Why, tell me why was he there?

Jesus the helper, the healer, the friend,

Why, tell me why was he there?

Why should he love me a sinner undone;

Why, tell me why should he care?

I do not merit the love he has shown.

Why, tell me why should he care?

7. Well - This Morning - From These Verses:

- We Are Going To Explore:

- Three Reasons:

- **“Why”** God The Father Sent & “Set Forth” His Son, Jesus Christ:

- To Provide For:

- Our Salvation As Well As The Satisfaction That Was Needed:
- For Our Sins!

* First - It Was:

1. To Confirm His Righteous Character!

- Which Is What We See In The First Part Of:
 - 3:25 - "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness!"
 - Here - The Reason:
 - God Sent & "Set Forth" Jesus:
 - To Be The Propitiation & Final "Mercy-Seat" Of God:
 - Was:
 - "To Declare His Righteousness!"
 - That Is - The Sacrifice Of Jesus On The Cross - Was & Is:
 - A Declaration & A Demonstration:
 - Of The Righteous Character Of God!
 - **IE:** When You Are Driving Along A Highway - There Are Different Kinds Of Signs You Might See! There Are Signs To Warn You, Guide You, And Inform You!
 - The Cross Of Jesus Christ Is Also A Sign - Along The Highway Of Life! It Serves As A Warning & A Guide To You! But It Is Also There To Inform You About:
 - The Existence Of God's Righteousness!
 - It Provides Real Evidence & Proof:
 - That God Is Righteous:
 - And That God Is Just!
 - You See - All Throughout The Bible:
 - The Doctrine:
 - Of God's Righteousness:
 - Is Clearly Taught!
 - In Deuteronomy 32:4:
 - We Hear This Truth - "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he!"
 - And This Doctrine Is Echoed All Throughout The Bible!
 - God Is Just & Righteous - Inherently!
 - This Means That:
 - His Conduct Always Conforms:
 - With His Holy Character!
 - And The Sacrifice Of Jesus Christ:
 - On The Cross:
 - Confirms The Existence Of God's Righteousness!
 - It Also Confirms:
 - The Extent Of God's Righteousness!
 - That God's Justice:
 - Is Absolute And Infinite!
 - **IE:** Not All Judges In This World Are Equally Just! Some Act On Their Own Bias! Some Even Act Because They've Been Bribed! But Not God!
 - In Deuteronomy 10:17-18 - We Are Told:
 - "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: / He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment!"
 - God Is Just & Righteous - Infinitely!
 - And The Sacrifice Of Jesus Christ:
 - On The Cross:
 - Confirms It!
 - It Also Confirms:
 - The Endurance Of God's Righteousness!
 - That God's Justice Is:
 - Eternal And Unchangeable!
 - **IE:** In Our System Of Justice - Sometimes Judges May Make A Mistake Or Change

- Their Minds! But Not God!
- In Malachi 3:6 - The Lord Himself Says:
 - “I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed!”
- God Is Just & Righteous - Immutably!
 - He Never Makes A Mistake!
 - And - He Never Changes His Mind!
- And When God The Father:
 - Sent & “Set Forth” His Son - Jesus:
 - It Was All Part Of The Divine Plan:
 - To Prove & Demonstrate:
 - The Inherent, Infinite, And Immutable Righteousness Of God!
 - “To Declare His Righteousness” - It Says:
 - In Romans 3:25!
 - But - “How” Does It Prove It?
 - “How” Does It Confirm It?
 - Well - That Is What We Find:
 - In The Rest Of 3:25 - When The Apostle Paul Further Explains That:
 - Jesus Also Came:

2. **To Clarify His Righteous Conduct!**

- That Is - To Clarify:
 - “Why” God Did What He Did!
 - Again - In 3:25 - “To Declare His Righteousness For The Remission Of Sins That Are Past, Through The Forbearance Of God!”
 - Now - The Word Translated “Remission” In The King James Here:
 - Does Not Mean “Remission” In The Sense Of “Forgiveness” Of Sins!
 - Instead - It Means:
 - To “Pass Over” Something Or Even To “Ignore” Something Entirely!
 - And - This Is What It Looked Like & Seemed Like:
 - God Was Doing - Ever Since The Fall!
 - That God Was, In A Sense, Ignoring The “Sins That Are Past” - Or - The “Sins *Of* The Past!”
 - And - Since Sin Was - And Still Is - So Rampant:
 - It Might Cause People To Question:
 - Whether God Is Truly Righteous?
 - Isn’t This What David Was Wondering In Psalm 2:1 - When He Asked - “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”
 - **Why** Did God Ignore The Wicked?
 - **How** Could God Pass Over Their Sins & Crimes:
 - Against Him & His People?
 - **IE:** It Was Like A Great Puzzle! Not All Of The Pieces Of God’s Conduct Seemed To Fit The Picture They Were Given Of God And His Righteous Character!
 - There Were Questions About:
 - The Care Of God!
 - Is God Really Good & Loving?
 - Does God Really Care:
 - About What’s Going On:
 - In This World!
 - After All - What Did God Seemingly Ignore?
 - “Sins!”
 - This Would Include:
 - Not Just Things That Are Offensive To God - But Even:
 - Things That Are Offense To Man!
 - Offenses That Even Sinful, Fallen People:
 - Think Should Not Be Overlooked!
 - **IE:** Like Serial Killers! Or - Like Leaders Who Commit “Crimes Against Humanity!” Crimes That May Even Shock The Sensibilities Of Otherwise Spiritually Senseless People!

- And Yet - All Too Often:
 - It Causes People To Wonder:
 - **Not** About:
 - The Nature Of Man!
 - But About:
 - The Nature Of **God!**
 - **Not** - What's The Problem:
 - With Man?
 - But - What's The Problem:
 - With **God?**
 - There Would Also Have Been Questions About:
- The Control Of God!
 - Is God Really Sovereign?
 - Is God Really In Control:
 - Of All That's Going On:
 - In This World?
 - Not Only Is There:
 - An **Extreme** Nature To Sin:
 - There Is Also:
 - An **Extensive** Nature In Sin!
 - That Is - It Tends To "Stick!" - Both **To Us & With Us!**
 - There Are Consequences:
 - To Sin That Last:
 - For Years & Generations To Come!
 - **IE:** How Many Lives & Families & Communities & Countries – Even The Whole World – Can Be Affected By A Single Sin Committed By A Single Person!
 - It Might Even Lead People To Ask:
 - "How Can God – If There Is A God:
 - Let This Happen?"
 - Has Anyone Ever Asked You That? Have You Ever Thought That Yourself?
 - After All:
 - Sin Does Demoralize, Devastate:
 - And Destroy!
 - So - Is God Really In Charge & In Control?
 - But - It Can Also Make You Wonder About:
 - The Condition Of God!
 - Is God Really Pure?
 - How Can God Disregard Sin For So Long:
 - If What We Are Told In Habakkuk 1:13 Is True - "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity!"
 - And Yet - What Did God Do?
 - Habakkuk 1:13 Continues - "Wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"
 - If God Is Really Pure & Righteous:
 - Then How Can He Look:
 - On A World Such As This?
 - And - Why Does He Hold His Tongue?
 - Or - Even More - What About:
 - The Consistency Of God!
 - Is God Really Fair?
 - Just Look At How He Did Deal:
 - With People In The Old Testament!
 - Some Who Sinned:
 - Were Destroyed By The Lord!
 - But Others - Who Even Committed Some Of The Same Sins:
 - Were Preserved!
 - How Can All These Things Be?

- If God Is Inherently, Infinitely, And Immutably:
 - Just And Righteous:
 - As The Bible Tells Us?
- Well - Part Of The Solution To The Puzzle:
 - Is There At The End Of 3:25:
 - “Through / In The Forbearance Of God!”
- You See - Not Only Is God:
 - Righteous & Just:
 - He Is Also Patient & Longsuffering!
 - As Psalm 103:8 Tells Us That - “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy!”
- And So - The Forbearance Of God:
 - Does Not Take Away From:
 - His Righteousness:
 - But - Instead:
 - Joins Them Together!
 - And - What Might Seem Like A **Flaw**:
 - In God’s Character - Is Actually:
 - Him Being **Faithful**:
 - To His Character!
- After All - The “Forbearance” Of God:
 - Is Rich! The Word Is Only Used One Other Place:
 - In Romans 2:4 - Which Talks About - “The riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering” - Which - “Leadeth thee to repentance!”
- But Also - It Is The Coming Of Christ:
 - That Actually Clarifies The Conduct Of God For Us!
 - Because - When God **Reserved** His Wrath:
 - For All “The Sins That Are Past”:
 - It Was So That:
 - He Could, One Day, **Reveal** His Wrath And Righteousness:
 - Through Christ!
 - Because It Was God Who:
 - “Spared Not His Own Son, But Delivered Him Up For Us All!” (8:32)
 - The Sacrifice Of Jesus On The Cross:
 - Is The Final Piece To The Puzzle:
 - Of God’s Righteousness!

* But - Third - God Also Sent & “Set Forth” Jesus:

3. **To Communicate His Righteous Course!**

- Which Is What We Find In:
 - 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!”
 - So - Jesus Was Not Only Sent:
 - To Prove That God:
 - Was Righteous In The Past!
 - Jesus Was Also Sent:
 - As Proof That God:
 - Is Righteous In The Present!
 - “At This Time!”
 - And Everything Was & Is Still Being Done:
 - According To God’s Own Time-Table:
 - In Which He:
 - Makes Everything Right!
 - So That - Through:
 - The Sacrifice Of Jesus:
 - On The Cross - God Proves Himself:
 - To Be:

- Just!

- Even Though:
 - There Is “None Righteous” In This World:
 - There Is **One** Who Is Righteous:
 - In Heaven!
- God Has Always Been:
 - And Will Always Be:
 - Just!
- And The Blood Of Jesus:
 - That Was Shed On The Cross:
 - Proves It!
 - God Did **Not** Overlook Or Ignore Sin **At All!**
- Instead - God:
 - Punished The Sins Of His People:
 - Fully & Finally:
 - In Christ!
 - Romans 8:3 - “God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh!”
 - It Was The Sacrifice Of Jesus:
 - That Satisfied All The Demands:
 - Of Divine Justice!
- And Then - The Sacrifice Of Jesus:
 - On The Cross - Is What Qualifies God:
 - To Be:
- Justifier!
 - The One Who Can:
 - Without Doing Any Violence:
 - To His Righteous Nature:
 - Declare Sinners Righteous:
 - When They Simply Turn To & Trust In Jesus!
- He Is:
 - “The Justifier Of Him Which Believeth In Jesus!”

Conclusion:

1. And So:
 - It Was Jesus:
 - Who Took Upon Himself:
 - The Infinite Fury:
 - Of God’s Wrath!
 - To Prove - Once And For All:
 - That God Is Holy:
 - And That God Is Just!
2. And:
 - It **Is** Jesus:
 - Who Too Upon Himself:
 - The Infinite Fine:
 - Of Our Own Death!
 - To Provide - Once And For All:
 - God’s Pronouncement:
 - Of Justification:
 - For All Who Believe In Him!
3. And This Justification:
 - Does Not Only Mean:
 - That Your Fine Was Paid!
 - But Also That - Now:
 - You Possess The Righteousness Of Christ Himself:
 - In Your Account With God!
4. Because:
 - The Justice Of God:

- Makes Way For:
 - The Justification Of Sinners!
 - Sinners Like You & Sinners Like Me!
- 5. This Is:
 - **“Why”** God The Father:
 - Sent & “Set Forth” His Son - Jesus:
 - As The Final Mercy-Seat & Propitiation:
 - For Sin!
 - To:
 - Confirm His Righteous Character!
 - Clarify His Righteous Conduct!
 - Communicate His Righteous Course!
- 6. And - If The Timing Of All This:
 - Was Right For God:
 - Isn't It Now The Right Time:
 - For You Too?
 - As Paul Tells Us In 2 Corinthians 6:2 - “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!”
- 7. If You Are *Not* A Christian:
 - Won't You - Right Now:
 - On This Very Day And:
 - At This Very Moment:
 - Believe In Jesus?
 - And - If You *Are* A Christian:
 - Now You Know A Little Bit More:
 - As To “Why” Jesus Christ:
 - Came Into This World:
 - To Save A Sinner Like You!
 - And - As John Moore Put It:
 - In The Chorus Of His Hymn:
 - All my iniquities on him were laid;
 - He nailed them all to the tree.
 - Jesus, the debt of my sin fully paid,
 - He paid the ransom for me!

* Close In Prayer

- * Do You See Why Jesus Christ Had To Come And Die On The Cross?
- * Do You Believe That Jesus Took Your Sin & Your Punishment Upon Himself?
- * Do You Want To Keep Learning More About This “Great Salvation?”
- * Stay Curious!

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