

“Salvation Is Of The Lord”
Romans 3:24-25

Introduction:

1. **IE:** A Couple Of Weeks Ago, I Came Across An Old Show On YouTube - That I Enjoyed Watching When My Children Were Young! A Show Called - “How It’s Made!” - Each Episode - True To Its Name - Showed How A Lot Of Common, Household Products Were Made! They Revealed The Entire Process - From Start To Finish - From The Raw Materials - To The Usable Product - Which Was & Still Is - Fascinating To Me!
2. Well - As We Head Back In Our Bibles:
 - To The Book Of Romans:
 - Which We Began Studying Together - As A Church:
 - At The Beginning Of This Year:
 - In Romans 3:
 - We Are Learning What It Takes:
 - To Have A Right Relationship With:
 - And - A Right Standing Before:
 - God!
 - It Takes - In The Words Of 3:22:
 - Simple “Faith Of - And In - Jesus Christ!”
 - Who He Is & What He Did:
 - For You!
 - But - Even Though:
 - This Truth Is So Simple:
 - That Even A Child:
 - Can Understand & Believe It:
 - And Be Saved!
 - As I Did & As Many Of You Have!
 - There Is Still So Much More:
 - To This Story!
3. And This Is What We Find:
 - In The Verses We Come To:
 - This Morning - Or Really - The Verse & A Half:
 - In Romans 3:24-25a - Where God - Through The Apostle Paul:
 - Gives Us A Condensed Version:
 - Of “How” This Great Salvation:
 - Was “Made” & “Made Possible” By God For You!
 - It Was By:
 - 3:24-25a - “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!”
 - This Is The Process God Used:
 - To Make Salvation Possible!
 - And - It Reveals To Us:
 - That Salvation:
 - Is Not Of Us At All!
 - But - Entirely Of & From God!
 - Even As The Old Prophet Jonah Declared:
 - From The Belly Of The Fish:
 - “Salvation Is Of The Lord!”
4. So Now - When You Believe:
 - You Can Put All Of Your Hope & Confidence:
 - In The Lord:
 - And What He Did For You!
 - And In The Verse & A Half We Just Read:
 - We Discover Six - Yes Six - Special Elements Of The Process:
 - Of Salvation!
 - So - How - Did God Make It Possible:
 - For You & I:
 - To Be Saved - Simply:

- Through Faith In Jesus?

* First - It Is:

1. **By God's Special Pronouncement!**

- Which We Find In The First Words Of Verse 24:

- "Being Justified!"

- You See - In Order For Anyone:

- To Be Right With God:

- You Need To Be "Justified" By God!

- This Is A Very Great & Important Christian Truth:

- But - What Does It Mean?

- Well:

- The Act Of Justification:

- Is Something That God Alone:

- Can Do!

- Because - He Alone:

- Is The "Judge Of All The Earth!"

- You See - Since:

- According To 3:23 - We - "All Have Sinned, And Come Short Of The Glory Of God" - It Means:

- That We Have All Committed Horrific Crimes & Offenses:

- Against God - And Are Guilty:

- And Rightly Deserve To Be Punished!

- This Is What Paul Has Already Established For Us:

- In Romans - Up Through This Point!

- We Are All Under Sin! (3:9)

- But - When God - As The Judge:

- **Justifies** You:

- It Means That He Declares & Pronounces:

- You To Be **Not** Guilty!

- Now, You Can *Claim*:

- To Be Guiltless - All You Want!

- And - In Fact - Many Criminal Defendants Do!

- But Just A Claim Does Not Make You Innocent!

- But - When *God*:

- Declares You Guiltless:

- That's A Different Story!

- Because The Act Of Justification:

- Is Not Based Upon:

- Any Of Your Own Efforts At Righteousness:

- But Upon - The Righteousness Of God Himself - Even - The Righteousness Of Christ!

- And - God Provides:

- The Application Of Justification:

- To Any Sinner:

- Who Simply Believes In Jesus!

- I Think That Paul Meant For This:

- To Be A Bit Of A Shock - Since:

- The Justification Of Verse 24 Is Closely Tied To The Sinners Of Verse 23 - So That:

- Those Who **Are** Guilty Of Crimes Are Declared **Not** Guilty!

- **IE**: Its No Less Shocking - When Someone Seems To Be "Let Off The Hook" In Our Own System Of Justice! Some Of You Might Remember The "Trial Of The Century" - Back In The 20th Century - When The Famous Football Player - O. J. Simpson - Went On Trial For The Murder Of His Wife, Nicole Brown Simpson! Well - Just About **Everyone** Thought O. J. Was Guilty! Everyone In The Media! Everyone In The Public! But After The Circus Of A Trial Came To An End - What Did The Jury Find? That O. J. Simpson Was **Not Guilty!**

- And - **That** Was The Only Judgment That Mattered! But - It Still Sent Shock-Waves All Throughout The Country! People Couldn't Believe It - And They Still Can't Believe It!

- But - It Should Be Even More Shocking To Think That God Would Actually Pronounce

- Unrighteous Sinners - Like You & Like Me - Righteous!
- And Yet - This Is Why Jesus Came In The First Place!
 - After All - What Did Jesus Say - When He Came?
 - Matthew 9:13 - "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!"
 - And - Who Did Jesus Seek - When He Came?
 - Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!"
 - And - Where Did Jesus Sit - When He Came?
 - Mark 2:15-16 - "And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. / And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?"
- So - Jesus Christ Came:
 - So That Unrighteous Sinners:
 - Who Believe In Him:
 - Can Be Pronounced **Not Guilty** & Even **Righteous** In The Court Of God!
 - But - Even More Shocking Is:
- The Account Of Justification!
 - This Pronouncement:
 - Is **Once And For All**:
 - And - Will Endure Forever!
 - Because - In Jesus:
 - All Of Your **Guilt**:
 - Was Applied To His Account:
 - Which He Paid For & Settled At The Cross!
 - Isaiah 53:6 - "And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all!"
 - **And** - All Of His **Righteousness**:
 - Was Applied To Your Account!
- **This** Is How It's Possible:
 - For You To Have A Right Relationship With God!
 - God Alone Made It Possible!
 - And If You Believe In Jesus As Your Savior:
 - Then - This Has Happened To You!
 - You Have Already Been Declared & Pronounced:
 - Righteous By Your Judge - By God Himself!
 - And Now:
 - You Can Rest In The Truth That:
 - "Salvation Is Of The Lord!"
 - But It Is Also:

2. **By God's Special Present!**

- Because - According To 3:24 - How Are Believers Justified?
 - "Freely!"
 - This Means That - God's Special Pronouncement:
 - Is Given:
 - As A Gift!
 - A Free Gift!
 - A True Gift!
 - **IE**: Now - We Are All Familiar With Gifts That Are Not True Gifts! They Are Given With Some "Strings" Attached, Whether Said Or Unsaid!
 - Here - Free Really Does Mean:
 - Free! It Is:
- Not An Award:
 - Of Any Kind!
 - Otherwise - It Would Not Be A Free Gift:
 - But - A Payment Of Sorts!
 - **IE**: Isn't This The Kind Of Gift That Is Offered When You Buy Something? At Our House, We Could Use Some New Windows! The Ones We Have Are Over 30 Years Old! And I Hear All The Time On The

Radio - Window Manufacturers - Offering A “Buy One - Get One Free” Special! Is It Really Free? Is It Really A Gift? Not If You Have To “Buy One” First!

- But - God Offers His Pronouncement **Of** You:

- **To** You - As A Gift!

- Not As An Incentive!

- Not As A Bonus!

- Not As An Award For Making A Deal With Him!

- But Freely! Also - It Is:

- Not An Anticipation:

- Of Any Kind!

- Otherwise - It Too - Would Not Be A Free Gift:

- But - A “Quid Pro Quo” Of Sorts:

- Which We Heard Too Much Of Just A Few Months Ago!

- **IE:** But - Isn't This The Kind Of Gift That Is Given In The Corporate World All The Time? Its Called A “Gift” - But There Is Some Kind Of Expectation & Anticipation Attached To It!

- But - God Operates Differently!

- God Offers His Pronouncement Of Righteousness To You:

- As A True Gift!

- “Freely” - Paul Writes!

- Justification Is:

- God's Special Present:

- To Those Who Believe In His Son!

- And If You Believe In Jesus, As Your Savior:

- Then - You Have Been Given:

- This Relationship With God:

- As An Entirely Free, Un-Earned, Un-Deserved - Gift!

- But - Why Would God:

- Even Do Something Like This?

- **IE:** When Was The Last Time Someone Sent You A Present - Who You Had Offended!

- Well - Its Because God's Special Present Is Given:

3. **By God's Special Pleasure!**

- That Is - 3:24 - “By His Grace!”

- “Grace” Is Another Great Truth About God:

- That Is Powerfully Expressed In & Through:

- Our Hymns!

- Like, Perhaps, The Most Familiar Hymn - Known All Throughout The World - That Says: “Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound, That Saved A Wretch Like Me! I Once Was Lost, But Now Am Found, Was Blind, But Now I See!” (John Newton)

- God's Grace Is Truly Amazing:

- Because - It Is - “God's Love Directed Toward The Guilty!” (William Hendrickson)

- And - God's Grace Is:

- An Autonomous Grace!

- That Is - A Sovereign Grace!

- It Is “His” Grace!

- There Was Nothing In You & There Was Nothing In Me:

- That Moved God To Reach Out And Save Us!

- No - It Was Entirely:

- **His** Choice - Moved By:

- Nothing Else But **His Own**:

- Gracious & Loving Nature!

- His Grace Is Also:

- An Active Grace!

- He Comes To You:

- With An Outstretched Arm:

- And - With An Open Hand:

- To Offer & Bestow:

- The Gift Of His Righteousness!
- **IE:** He Doesn't Hold It Out - Like You Might Do With A Treat For Your Dog - Or - At Least Like I Do - Just Out Of Reach! No - He Brings It Near!
 - Even As Paul Later Writes - Romans 10:8 - "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach!"
 - His Grace Is An Active Grace! And:
 - It Is Also:
- An Abundant Grace!
 - The Infinite Hand Of God:
 - Is Full Of His Infinite, Matchless Grace!
 - Even As Psalm 86:15 Tells Us - "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth!"
 - And - His Hand Of Grace:
 - Even More Than We Need!
 - So That - The Gift He Offers Is Not Like The Gifts So Many Of Us Offer - Gift Cards!
 - **IE:** We Give Gift Cards When We Don't Know What Someone Wants Or Needs! And - That's OK! But God Knows Exactly What You Need & Offered You The Perfect Gift - His Own Righteousness:
 - And - If You Are Trusting In Jesus As Your Savior:
 - Then - God Has Already Made:
 - His Sovereign, Abundant, Active:
 - And Amazing Grace:
 - Known To You!
 - He Has Already:
 - Bestowed It Upon You!
 - So - Now - You Can Rest In - As One Recent Writer Described It:
 - The "Extravagant Grace" Of God!
 - Because - "Salvation Is Of The Lord!"
 - But - How Could Even *This* Happen?
 - How Can Simple Faith In Jesus:
 - Receive All This?
 - Because - It Is Also:

4. ***By God's Special Plan!***

- As Romans 3:24 Continues - It Is All:
 - "Through The Redemption That Is In Christ Jesus!"
 - Here Is - Even Another:
 - Great Christian Word & Truth:
 - "Redemption" - That Reveals The Reason God Could Pronounce Guilty Sinners Guiltless!
 - It's Because - The Price & The Penalty:
 - For Their Sin & Guilt:
 - Has Already Been Dealt With:
 - And Paid For - In The Person & Work Of Jesus Christ!
 - And - This "Redemption" Involves:
 - A Release!
 - The Root Of The Word Translated "Redemption" Is A Familiar Word To Anyone Who Has Ever Studied Greek!
 - It Is "Luo" - Which You Would Use To Learn All Of The Different Endings / Conjugations For The Most Common Verbs!
 - But - "Luo" Simply Means - To Loose! To Release! It's What Jesus Said When He Raised Lazarus From The Dead! "Loose Him And Let Him Go!"
 - But - Redemption Means:
 - To Loose & To Release **From** Something!
 - Like A Burden You Are Under:
 - Or - A Bondage You Are In!
 - Like When - In The Old Testament:
 - The Children Of Israel:

- Were In Bondage As Slaves:
 - In Egypt - For 400 Years!
 - They Needed Redemption!
- And So - In Exodus 6:6 - God Says - "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments!"
- And So It Is For Each One Of Us!
 - We Are In Complete Bondage To
 - Sin, Guilt, Death, The Law, The Grave, And Even The Devil Himself:
 - As Slaves!
 - And - Are In Desperate Need:
 - Of Redemption:
 - But - It Is Impossible For Us To Free Or "Loose" Ourselves - Because - "Redemption" Also Involves:
- A Ransom!
 - A Price To Be Paid!
 - Your Justification:
 - May Be A Free Gift To You:
 - But - It Wasn't Free:
 - To God!
 - The Price Was Very, Very High!
 - Because - When Jesus Came, He Came:
 - "To redeem them that were under the law!" (Galatians 4:5)
 - And - It Is This "Redemption" That Is In Christ Jesus:
 - That Makes God's Free Gift Of Salvation:
 - Possible!
 - Because - As The Christ:
 - The Old Testament Messiah:
 - Jesus Was Anointed:
 - To Suffer - Not For His Own Sin, But For Our Sins!
 - And - As Jesus:
 - He Was Appointed:
 - To Save - According To The Meaning Of His Name:
 - "Jehovah Is Salvation!"
 - And So Now - When You Believe In Him:
 - And The Ransom He Paid For You:
 - By His Own Death On The Cross:
 - Then - You Are Redeemed!
 - There Is No More Price To Be Paid! "Jesus Paid It All!"
 - You Can Now Rest In This:
 - "Salvation" That "Is Of The Lord!"
 - But - Even More - It Is:

5. ***By God's Special Provision!***

- As We Turn Our Attention To Romans 3:25 - We Come To Another Great Christian Truth - When It Refers To Jesus:
 - "Whom God Hath Set Forth To Be A Propitiation!"
 - The Word Translated "Propitiation" Can Also Be Translated "Mercy Seat" - And Points Back:
 - To The Time Of The Old Testament - When - In The Holy Of Holies - Of Both The Tabernacle & The Temple:
 - There Was A Lid Made Out Of Pure Gold - That Sat Upon The Ark Of The Covenant!
 - And So - The "Mercy Seat" Lay Between:
 - The Two Tables Of God's Law:
 - In The Ark - And The Presence Of God:
 - Between The Two Cherubim!
 - The Cherubim - Which Are Angels:
 - Represented:

- The Heavenly Home & The Holy Nature Of God!
- The Ark With Its Tablets:
 - Represented:
 - Our Earthly Home & Our Unholy Nature - Since We Broke God's Commandments!
- And It Was There - At The Mercy Seat:
 - Where - Once A Year - On The Day Of Atonement:
 - God Would Meet With Man!
 - The High Priest Would Enter The Holy Of Holies:
 - And Sprinkle The Blood Of An Animal Sacrifice Upon The Mercy Seat!
 - And - By So Doing - By The Blood Of That Sacrifice - God's Wrath For Those Broken Commandments Was Stayed!
- And - This Was A Picture - An Object Lesson:
 - Of What Was Necessary:
 - Not Only:
 - To Appease God - And His Wrath Upon Sin!
 - But Also:
 - To Even Approach God - Because Of His Holiness!
- And That Is Why - We Are Told In Romans 3:25 - That:
 - Christ Jesus Himself:
 - Is The Everlasting Propitiation:
- By The Design Of God!
 - "Whom God Hath Set Forth" - It Says!
 - In Hebrews 10:4 - We Are Reminded That - "It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins!"
 - And So - God Provided:
 - What He Required:
 - To Satisfy His Own Judgment For Sin!
 - And This Design:
 - Was All Part Of His Eternal Plan!
- Even As Peter Tells Us:
 - In 1 Peter 1:18-20 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; / But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: / Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you!"
- And So - Jesus & His Death On The Cross:
 - Became The Sacrifice That Satisfied:
 - All Of The Divine Justice:
- By The Display Of God!
 - Jesus - Became:
 - The True Mercy-Seat!
 - Where God Met With Man - One Final Time!
 - And Became Satisfied By The Blood Of Jesus - That Was Shed:
 - Not Just Sprinkled - On The Cross!
 - And - Instead Of Being:
 - Hidden Away Behind A Veil:
 - Like It Was In Old Testament Times:
 - Jesus' Sacrifice Was Accomplished On A Hill Called Calvary - For All To See!
- So That - When You Or I Or Anyone:
 - Believes On Him:
 - God's Anger & Wrath & Judgment:
 - For Your Sin:
 - Has Been Appeased & Satisfied:
 - Forever!
 - Because - As Everett Harrison Once Wrote:
 - "Christ Has Become The Meeting-Place Of God And Man Where The Mercy Of God Is Available Because Of The Sacrifice Of His Son!"
 - Now - You Can Rest In:

- The "Salvation" That Comes From "The Lord!"

- But - Also - It Is:

6. By God's Special Promise!

- Even As We Are Told In 3:25:

- It Is All Received - "Through Faith In His Blood!"

- All That We've Seen In This Special Verse & A Half:

- God's Special Pronouncement:

- Of Justification!

- As God's Special Present:

- According To God's Special Pleasure!

- God's Special Plan:

- As Well As God's Special Provision!

- All Is Yours:

- "Through Faith" & Faith Alone:

- In Jesus Christ & His Blood:

- Which Was Shed For You!

- Here - Paul Essential Repeats:

- What He Said In 3:22:

- Because - This Is The Only Way For You To Experience This Gift Of God's Grace!

- You Need To Just Believe!

- Believe In:

- Who Jesus Is!

- He Alone Is - "The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:12)

- Believe In:

- What Jesus Said!

- That He Alone Is - "The resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!" (John 11:25)

- And - Believe In:

- Why Jesus Came!

- That His Blood Alone - Was - "Shed for many for the remission of sins!"

- And - There Is Great Power In His Blood!

- As Ron Hamilton Described It For Us:

- In A Hymn:

The Blood Of Christ Jesus Has Power To Save,
The Blood Of My Savior Has Conquered The Grave;
He Left Heaven's Glory And Died On A Tree
To Purchase Salvation For Sinners Like Me!

Conclusion:

1. And This Is:

- "How" The Justification:

- That You & I So Desperately Need:

- Was "Made Possible" - By God!

- Romans 3:24-25a - "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!"

2. You See:

- Not Only Did Jesus "Pay" It All:

- As The Hymn Goes:

- God Himself "Did" It All!

- Remember - "Salvation Is Of The Lord!"

- And All You Have To Do:

- Is Receive This Free Gift:

- By Faith In Jesus Christ!

3. If You Haven't Come To Him Already:

- Won't You Do So Today?

- Because - When You Do:

- You Can Forever Receive:
 - And Enjoy The Rest:
 - Promised To You By The Savior:
- In Matthew 11:28:
 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!”

* Have You Received God’s Gift Of Salvation Through Faith In Jesus Christ?

* Are You Resting In The Truth That “Salvation Is Of The Lord?”

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