



Sunday, May 9, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Romans 3:21-28**

Since the protestant reformation of the sixteenth century, it has often been said that justification by faith alone is the doctrine on which the church stands or falls. This was Martin Luther's main point of contention with the Roman Church at the time and remains a dividing point between official Catholic doctrine and protestant theology.

This doctrine answers the most fundamental question facing humanity. How can sinful people stand before a holy God?

In many ways, humanity has tried to answer that question by distorting reality. We either try to pretend that we are not that sinful, or that God is not that holy. We see examples of the former all over the place. Our culture likes to make the claim that people are basically good, that systems or society are what really corrupt us, and that if left to our own devices, we will live good lives.

There are all kinds of examples of people trying to diminish God's holiness as well. In the ancient world, the "gods" were often as twisted and evil as human beings were—sometimes even worse. Pagan myths are filled with the worst kinds of human depravity. Modern day examples abound as well, but perhaps the most general way it shows up is simply assuming that God is like us.

The doctrine of justification accounts for the reality of our sinfulness and the reality of God's holiness in a way that not only satisfies His righteous wrath against us because of our sin, but also magnifies His glory in the grace of Christ, who willingly sacrificed His own body in our place so that we could be made right with God.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Romans 5:1; 3:21-28

“Living in Peace”

Key Ideas

- 1) Righteousness cannot ultimately come through the law
- 2) Righteousness comes from God, it cannot be earned
- 3) We obtain the righteousness of God through faith alone in Christ alone
- 4) Christ satisfied God’s wrath against us through His sacrifice of atonement
- 5) Knowing that we are justified by God through faith alone allows us to have peace with God

