

The Gospel in a Paragraph - 2

Sermon 8 in the Romans Series

Romans 3:25-26

3:21-26 comprise one paragraph.

Some theologians have said is the greatest paragraph ever written.

By way of review

1. Righteousness apart from the Law – v. 21

If fallen man could keep the law to be saved.

If he had that ability.

Why would the Son of God have to come and die?

2. Righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ – v. 22

For **all** who believe!

Salvation can only come by God's grace appropriated by faith!

The phrase can also be translated "through the faithfulness of Christ."

3. All need this righteousness – v. 23

4. Justification – v.24a

Justification means NOT GUILTY.

Satan (the accuser) cannot even lay a charge to God's elect.

In Christ we are NOT GUILTY!

5. Redemption – v. 24b

A Biblical Illustration of Redemption is Redeeming His people from Egyptian slavery.

Since Christ's death is the cause of our redemption – what about those who died in OT times – before the death of Christ?

LBCF 8:6 (page 675)

Here we see the value of a confession of faith.

2 Peter 2:1 – a misunderstood verse.

6. Propitiation – v. 25

This word appears 4 times in most English translations.

B. What Propitiation means.

In 3:25 the word is a form of the Greek word for the Mercy Seat, the lid on the Ark of the Covenant. Hebrews 9:5 uses the same Greek word but is translated Mercy Seat.

Propitiation has to do with the way the wrath of God is turned away from us. On the cross – the wrath of God was poured out our Lord Jesus Christ, until “it is finished.” We who are in Christ will never taste the wrath of God.

Leviticus Chapter 16 – The Day of Atonement

Propitiation is the righteous way that God’s wrath is turned away – by the Righteous One – the Lord Jesus Christ – and not by works – but by faith in Christ.

C. Other passages dealing with Propitiation.

Hebrews 2:17 – Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (He had to be a real human – to be our High Priest.)

1 John 2:2 -- He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Christ’s atonement – the propitiation – is the turning away of God’s wrath for every Christian – if they are part of the OC nation (like John) or if they be Gentile believers from the whole world (every tribe, tongue, people and nation).

There is no atonement – no propitiation -- no turning away of God’s wrath -- to those who refuse to come to the Savior.

1 John 4:10 -- In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

7. Just and the Justifier v. 26

It is just and right for God to forgive our sins through Christ.
It would be unjust of God to cause us to pay for sins for which Christ has already paid.

The Christians sins have been imputed to Christ – so it would be unjust to make us pay for the penalty that Christ already paid for us.

The one who has faith in Christ – has received all the promises – has partaken in redemption and propitiation – and it is just and right for our sins to be forgiven – because they have been paid for – the price of redemption has been paid – and God now smiles toward us – and there is NO WRATH – NO CONDEMNATION.