

Romans Part Two: The Bridge from Earth to Heaven – First Week

God's Surprise Solution

Romans 3:21-28

Introduction: In what is probably, the most important paragraph ever written, Paul explains the basis upon which human beings receive a right standing with God.

1. A RADICAL MESSAGE – The gift of salvation is a radical new work in the history of humanity. *Romans 3:21-23*

- A. The phrase “but now”, combined with the verb “manifested”, reveals this radical departure. 3:21
- B. The gift is radical because it is received apart any good works that we do. 3:21a
- C. The gift is radical because it is available to everyone, regardless of their background. 3:22c-23
- D. The gift is radical, but it is wholly consistent with Old Testament revelation. 3:21b

2. A RADICAL OUTCOME – The gift of salvation completely changes our standing before God. *Romans 3:24-26*

- A. Change number one is legal – We are justified. 3:24a
- B. The method of the change is redemption. 3:24b
- C. Change number two is relational – We are forever freed from the anger of God. 3:25a
- D. The result of the change is a demonstration of God’s greatness. 3:25b-26

3. A TOUGH CHOICE – The gift of salvation is hard to accept. *Romans 3:27-31*

- A. Objection 1: psychological – “If salvation is not by works, then I can’t boast.” 3:27-28
- B. Objection 2: cultural – “If salvation is not by works, there’s only one way for all people.” 3:29-30
- C. Objection 3: moral – “If salvation is not by works, does personal morality come by faith?” 3:31