



# SERMON

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Speaker: Chris Royalty

Sunday: February 7, 2021

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) What comes to mind when you think about the word “mercy?” How would you describe mercy? What comes to mind when you think about the word “justice?” How would you describe justice?
- 3) Read Romans 3:21-26 together. What stuck out to you as you read? Was there anything you didn’t understand, or want to talk about? Discuss.
- 4) Verse 23 says that everyone is a sinner. What are the implications of this truth?
- 5) Verse 24 says that we can be justified by faith in Jesus. What are the implications of this.
- 6) Read this quote about propitiation from the ESV Study Bible:

Jesus’ blood “propitiated” or satisfied God’s wrath (1:18), so that his holiness was not compromised in forgiving sinners. Some scholars have argued that the word propitiation should be translated *expiation* (the wiping away of sin), but the word cannot be restricted to the wiping away of sins as it also refers to the satisfaction or appeasement of God’s wrath, turning it to favor (cf. note on John 18:11). God’s righteous anger needed to be appeased before sin could be forgiven, and God in his love sent his Son (who offered himself willingly) to satisfy God’s holy anger against sin. In this way God demonstrated his righteousness, which here refers particularly to his holiness and justice. God’s justice was called into question because in his patience he had overlooked former sins. In other words, how could God as the utterly Holy One tolerate human sin without inflicting full punishment on human beings immediately? Paul’s answer is that God looked forward to the cross of Christ where the full payment for the guilt of sin would be made, where Christ would die in the place of sinners.

- 7) So what does the word “propitiation” mean? And why is it so important?
- 8) When you dwell on the truth of propitiation, how does it change your conception of God?

- 9) If we think only of God's justice, we will tend to think of God as an angry, fire-and-brimstone, sort of God. If we think only of God's mercy, we will tend to think of God as a loving, sin-is-no-big-deal sort of God. Both are aberrations. Which mistake are you most likely to make? Why do you think this is the case? Discuss?
- 10) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.