

**DISCUSSION GUIDE: ROMANS 3:24-25**  
**APRIL 16, 2017**

1. In v24 Paul says we are justified by his grace as a gift. The idea of justification is a legal term in the Bible. It has in view a person's standing before the heavenly court of God's justice. In Romans, Paul uses the term to describe the declaration of God pronouncing unworthy sinners as justified before him, not because of their works but because of his grace.

—Discuss with your group the biblical concept of grace. What are some important things to remember about God's grace? (Help your group think along the lines of how grace is unmerited and free.

—Encourage the group to consider how the Lord has been (and is currently being!) gracious to us in our lives.

2. Paul speaks of our redemption as being "in Christ Jesus." Clearly, it is very important for us to understand the nature of the person of Christ biblically. Misunderstandings about the nature of Christ have led to many heretical errors in the history of the church (e.g. Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness). Jesus is fully God (and always has been) and became fully Man, yet without sin.

—Take some time to read the following passages about the divine nature of Christ. Colossians 1:15-20 and John 1:1-3.

—Take some time to read the following passages about the human nature of Christ. Heb 2:14-18 and Heb 4:15-16.

—What do we lose from the gospel when we take away from the full divinity of Christ?

—What do we lose from the gospel when we take away the full humanity of Christ?

3. "Propitiation" is one of the most important words and concepts in the Bible. It means to appease one's anger by the offering of a gift. Paul says that God put Jesus forward as a propitiation for our sin. In other words, God the Father puts God the Son forward to extinguish His just wrath against those whom He saves.

—Discuss this phrase: "We are saved by God, from God, for God."

—Why is it important for Christians to understand the concept of propitiation?

4. Paul says that all of this great salvation comes “by faith.” In other words, it is not universal. Not everybody is saved, but only those who put their faith in the work of Christ.

—What does the Bible have to say about the nature of saving faith? Is it something we bring, or something God must give? (see Ephesians 2:8-10).

—What are some implications of seeing faith as a gift we are totally dependent on God to give us?