

NO FREE LUNCH!

Romans 3:21-31

We've all heard: "***No such thing as a free lunch!***"

When we hear...

***Eternal life is received by faith in Christ alone
–NOT by works!***

Some say "*that's too easy!*" We *must* do something!

I want to **correct several misconceptions!...**

God's gift of eternal life is not a free lunch!

It's *not* FREE! It cost the life of God's only Son!

It's *not* NEW! Some say OT salvation's by law; NT by grace

Salvation's by faith alone!

Always has been! Always will be!

It's *not* EASY! No one *likes* to admit we're lost!

–that we can never be good enough to satisfy God!

Rom 3-4: God gives eternal life by trusting Jesus alone —It's *always* been that way!

Popular idea: Balance Scale—If good outweighs bad, you win
Two problems:

1) No one does right in God's sight 3:9-12

God's perspective: *ALL* good we do is like *filthy rags*.

2) **God's judgment isn't based on balance scale**

God's standard is **absolute**.

Can't tell policeman who arrests you for stealing:

"But officer, I never *killed* anybody!"

We're *all* law-breakers. We're *all* guilty!

1-3:20 shows **OUR NEED FOR GOSPEL:**

None of us can earn eternal life!

Solution: Since we're *all* guilty, God made way:

ESSENCE OF GOSPEL [end of notes]	
NECESSITY:	All are sinners
PROVISION:	Jesus died for us
METHOD:	Trust Jesus (+ nothing!)

Provision: Salvation by trusting Jesus 3:21-8:39

PRINCIPLE DECLARED 3:21-31 Heart of letter

Since no one's justified by law, God reveals *only* adequate basis for salvation: *Trust Jesus!*

God makes judicial pronouncement: *declares* us righteous

Applies Jesus' righteousness to our account

Summary: 3:21-22 [p. 1556] "*Now a righteousness from God, apart from law has been made known, to which the Law & the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe*"

God's righteousness is received by trusting Jesus
–NOT by works of law

3:21-23—unites our necessity with **God's provision**

Builds on 19-20 "*We know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced & the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing **the** law; rather, through **the** law we become conscious of sin.*

3:21 contains biggest contrast in Scripture:

"But now, a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known!"

God's perspective on OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

--It's NOT enough --We're all guilty

God's righteousness--different kind of r.

-not based on works of law (not works-of-law r.)

-based on faith in Jesus (faith-in-Jesus r.)

God offers salvation as gift to all who trust Jesus **22-**

24 *"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴& are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."*

No one measures up to God's standard!

We all miss the mark. We all fall short!

Price totally paid by Jesus' death **24-25a** *"& are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood."*

God's holiness has been offended.

Penalty must be paid!

OT: God accepts covering sin with animal blood, offered as sacrifice.

God accepts it because of pymt Jesus makes on cross.

Christ paid all we owe!--gift to us, **HE** paid full price.

That's how God can be just, & justifier of sinful people **25b-26** *"He did this to demonstrate his*

justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--²⁶he did it to demon-strate his justice at

*the present time, so as to be **just** and the one **who justifies those who have faith in Jesus**.*

How can God be just & still declare sinful people righteous

"Propitiation:" Jesus was offered **to satisfy God's just demands due to our sin against Him.**

God can forgive sin & remain just. Penalty's **paid in full!**

Since salvation isn't earned, no basis for boasting

27-28 *"Where, then, is boasting? It's excluded. Because of what law? **The A** law that requires works? No, because of **the a** law that requires faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from **the** works of **the** law.*

Boasting is excluded by *faith-based law*—even in OT!

People who think they can be saved by keeping law—by works— didn't get that idea from the law!

Law points to Jesus => blood's covering for law-breakers!

God justifies circ. & uncirc. based on faith

29-30 *"Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith."*

Salvation by faith doesn't invalidate law;

it affirms law 3:31 *"Do we, then, nullify **the** law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold **the** law."*

Law's demands can *only* be fulfilled by Christ's work.

Doctrine of justification by faith:

God declares *us* just, based on Christ's work

Neg: takes away our sins—that's not all!

Pos: credits Christ's righteousness to us

God's righteousness received trusting Jesus

Critical question: *In WHOM* are we trusting?

It's not *faith itself*—not *faith in faith*—that saves us;

> *object* of our faith, **Jesus**.

We compare faith to **sitting in chair**.

Authentic faith will rest weight on chair & relax!

If chair isn't *worthy* of trust—I'll be picking myself off floor!

Value of faith isn't based on fact of faith,

nor on quantity of faith,

but on OBJECT of our faith

Based on JESUS!—we trust *Him* & what He did

People say: to earn eternal life we live by set of rules—*try harder!*

God says we can't pull it off! *Never will!*

BUT, there's GOOD NEWS!

What we can't do, God did for us in Jesus!

Acts 13:38-39: “Through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹*Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.***”**

IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES?

1) God's people must understand the gospel Jesus became man & died for us. Now it's paid in full!

I once went to lunch with a couple of guys. Someone from church was sitting there when we came in. We greeted them; sat down across room. Eventually, others left.

When we asked for check, server told us they paid for our lunch. One of young people with us objected: "*They can't do that!*" But restaurant wouldn't let us pick up the tab! It was **paid in full!** There's **nothing** for us to pay!

DON'T TRY TO PICK UP THE TAB!

What are YOU trusting in? Still trying to pick up the tab?

Trust Jesus & work He already completed for us!

2) We have nothing to brag about!

3) We have plenty to shout about!

-good news to share with other people:

*God's righteousness is available to us as a gift,
if we trust His Son!*

That's good news! We ought to pass it on!

What are you trusting?