

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 3:26

Last time: three technical terms Paul uses to describe the deliberate actions God took to bring us to salvation: “apolytrois”, “hilasterion” and “endeixis”.

We saw two of the three: 1. God has Redeemed his people. 2. God has propitiated his wrath.

“Apolytrois”: He Has Redeemed His People:

Apolytrois – The act of buying a slave out of bondage in order to set him free. (An ancient Greek commercial word.)

Jesus bought us out of captivity, shedding his blood as the ransom price. Jesus said he came “to give his life as a ransom for many”. – Matthew 20:28

Hilasterion: He has propitiated his wrath.

NIV: “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.” KJV: “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in God.”

“Who Is Doing The Propitiating?” “God is doing the propitiating”: I John 4:10 -- “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an *atonement sacrifice* for our sins.”

“Who Is Providing The Propitiatory Sacrifice?” “God is providing the sacrifice”. See: Romans 5:8; Romans 8:32.

Today -- “Endeixis” -- the Greek word for “demonstration”.

25.“He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — 26 he did it to

demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

-- “He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished...”

-- “He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time...”

There are two parts to this story – the past and the present. God had an issue he needed to solve in order to properly deal with past sins – while offering redemption at the present time.

- **Ignoring or Forbearing:**

God left the sins of former generations unpunished He overlooked their ignorance – not because of any injustice on his part – or because he condoned evil – but because it was part of his plan.

Note Psalms 73:3: “For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”

Throughout human history God had overlooked the sins of people – including the Old Testament heroes of the faith. How could He overlook the sins of men like Abraham, Moses, King David ... and the rest?

- Not through the sacrifices! Animal sacrifices pointed to the need for a more comprehensive solution to the power of sin in the lives of God's people. See: Hebrews 9:9-10; Hebrews 10:4

The animal sacrifices pointed to the Israelites' need for redemption and a clear conscience -- but none of them ever accomplished it. That is why they were repeated thousands of times over many centuries.

-- **God's Problem:** Throughout human history he had not directly dealt with sins – even in His chosen people ... he had left their sins unpunished. See: Acts 17:30 (God overlooked the “times of ignorance”).)

How could God ignore such sin and still be perfectly holy? How could he hold back from judging his people's sin and still be justified as well as the justifier of those who believe? See: Malachi 2:17; Psalm 78:38; Micah 7:18

- The Forbearance Solution:

"... He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

God is committed to two powerful concepts: mercy that forgives and justice that punishes. At the Cross -- God has covered both bases -- backwards and forwards.

The cross reaches backward to cover sin -- that's how the people of the Old Testament are saved. Christ became the "scapegoat". He carried our sins into the wilderness. He became the propitiation that caused God's mercy to be shown to us. Note: I Peter 2:24

The Cross puts the justice of God on display by showing that He couldn't pass over sin. It also demonstrates God's justice in that he proves himself to be the One who justifies us when we have faith in Jesus.

At the Cross-we see all three of Paul's technical terms in action. God has redeemed his people. He has propitiated his wrath. He has demonstrated his Justice.

Indeed, all three of these achievements belong together.