

Christ Proving God's Righteousness

By Randy Jones

Rom. 3:21-26 - God down through time demonstrated or told to mankind many things to show or prove His righteousness. He didn't do them to demonstrate to Himself or justify for Himself, but to demonstrate to the nations of men that He is God and a holy, righteous, and just God. In His sayings or demonstrations to the nations of men, He told them what His expectations were for them regarding Himself. These expectations were in effect, safe guarding God's Holy reputation. Some examples of this: A) Num. 27:14 - "For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow (sanctify, KJV) Me at the waters before their eyes." B) Ez. 20:41 - "I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered: and I will be hallowed (sanctified, KJV) in you before the Gentiles. C) Ez. 38:16 - "You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know me, when I am hallowed (sanctified, KJV) in you, O Gog, before their eyes." Take special notice here that God is speaking to an alien nation, and saying that He will be sanctified in them. Further down in this same reading, D) vs. 23 - "Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord." E) Isa. 5:16 - "But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God who is holy shall be hallowed (sanctified, KJV) in righteousness. (See also: Lev. 10:3, Lev. 22:32, Psa. 106:8, Rom. 2:24, and Ez. 20:9) From these texts and many, many others you can see clearly that God in a sense is safe guarding His Holy Name (reputation).

Now keep in mind the idea of God safe guarding his Holy name as your read Romans 3:25-26. In these texts, the apostle Paul is talking to Roman Christians about God's righteousness. Within that context he makes two thought provoking statements. First "to demonstrate His righteousness" and second "to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness." We have always automatically believed that the purpose of Christ's blood being shed was for us, for our redemption. Yes, but not exclusively. God being God, and "My ways higher than your ways" (Isa. 56:9), and having attributes that are the very essence of who God is, does things that demonstrate to mankind that He is a righteous God. For instance, we know that He demonstrated His righteous love for us in creating us (Gen. 1:26-27), but most especially in giving His only Son to become our Savior (1John 4:10). We know that He demonstrates His righteous anger at disobedience by His children (us) (Jer. 18:23). We know that He demonstrates His righteous justice by demanding that innocent blood be shed for sin (1Peter 2:24). We don't question these things, because Holy Scripture verifies these things. Now what if God not only gave us Jesus to become our Savior, but in His giving us Jesus He is primarily proving to the world that He, God is righteous? Righteous in His judgment of sin, righteous in His punishment of sin, and righteous by supplying in His only Son the only appeasement price that could ever possibly be paid for sin, Deity's innocent blood. Only God could do that. When you think about it for a while, it makes perfect sense. We need to be careful to not prioritize these in the wrong order.

Look at the text again: Verse 24 "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed. 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." Notice here he is not talking about Jesus' righteousness, but God's righteousness. Christ in all that He did was proving to mankind God's righteousness and holiness, and was simultaneously paying the God required price for mankind's sins.

“This, then is the true explanation of Calvary, God’s holy character could do no less than judge sin even though it be found on Christ himself. At the cross we grasp that God’s justice was satisfied and his holiness vindicated.” Also further down the same page. “In a very profound sense, which the modern church does not seem to appreciate, the atonement, if man was to be saved, was necessary, not primarily on man’s account, but on God’s account. This, then, is how God ultimately ‘vindicates his holy name’. This is how God ‘proves himself holy among the nations.’ And now ‘the nations know that he is Lord’ by way of the cross.” (S. Craig Bean, “I Will Vindicate the Holiness of My Great Name,” Florida College Lectures Book, 2012, pg. 111)

Isn’t it a truly amazing thing that Christ was primarily proving to the world His Father’s righteousness by taking our sins upon Himself at the cross? Though it really should not surprise us, because “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 56:9). We might have realized this all along, but we have inflated our own importance to God and lost sight of the main reason that Christ gave Himself on the cross. It makes perfect sense, doesn’t it? Thank you dear Heavenly Father for sharing Your wisdom with us!

100,000 Times a Day!

Our heart beats about 100,000 times every day, pumping blood to every cell in our bodies. This adds up to about 35 million beats a year and 2.5 billion beats in an average lifetime. Medical science tells us that every contraction is similar to the effort it would take for us to hold a tennis ball in our palm and give it a good hard squeeze. Yet as amazing as our heart is, it is only one example of a natural world that is designed to tell us something about our Creator. This is the idea behind the story of a man named Job.

Broken by a series of mounting troubles, Job felt abandoned. When God finally spoke, He didn’t tell Job why he was suffering. Instead, He drew Job’s attention to a series of natural wonders that are always whispering to us, and sometimes shouting, about a wisdom and power far greater than our own (Job 38:1-11). So what can we learn from the complexity of this hardworking muscle, the heart? The message may be similar to the sound of waves coming to shore and stars quietly shining in the night sky. The power and wisdom of our Creator give us reason to trust Him. When we reflect on the power of God’s creation, we see the power of His care for us.

The experiences of Job are among the most heartrending found anywhere in the Scriptures. The loss of his children, wealth, and health drove him to question the purposes of God and wonder why He was silent. Then, in Job 38, God finally responded; and when He did, He didn’t offer Job answers; He offered Himself. The reminders of God’s greatness and power are not to be seen as cold or heartless, but as legitimate cause to put our trust in Him, even when we suffer and don’t know why.