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## In Christ: by His *Mercy* and *Grace*

**The Problem:** How can Holy God be reconciled (restored fellowship) to sinful man?

- **God is Truth** → faithfulness
- **God is Holy** → justness
- **God is Love** → mercy & grace

**What His Perfect Holiness demanded, His Perfect Love provided for us in Jesus! – Rom. 5:8**

- **Mercy** (v. 4) leniency and compassion shown toward offenders by a person charged with administering justice
  - **Not getting what we deserve** – Titus 3:5
- **Grace** (v. 8,9) favor, kindness, friendship
  - **Getting what we don't deserve** – Eph. 2:8,9

Rom. 5:1,2 – grace is not only the door, but is the very room in which we stand, live, and grow in the NC.

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**Matthew 4:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit...”**

– the poor in spirit have made peace with their flawed existence, they are fully and deeply aware of their lack of wholeness, their brokenness, the simple fact that they don't have it all together. They understand and believe it's by grace alone that one enters into the Holy of holies, into complete intimacy with a Holy God.

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## In Christ: His righteousness is mine

**Jesus: Author of Faith**

**Jesus: Perfecter of Faith**

**Jesus: Finisher of Faith**

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**Sanctification:** growing in grace as a result of **conversion**

**“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** I Thessalonians 5:23 NAS

**Sanctification** (fruit of the Spirit from within)

**Justification** (positional sanctification through Jesus: free gift)

**Glorification** future perfection

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**Sin's Work Against Us (Eph. 2:1-3)**

- **We (are) were dead!**
- **The problem is not what we do and don't do, the problem is who we are** → our core being is wrong

**Our total failure:**

- We have all fallen short of His perfect mark! (Romans 3:23)
- No one is righteous. None! (Romans 3:11,12)
- All our righteous efforts are as filthy garments (Isa. 64:6)

**What God's perfect Holiness demands (Justice), His perfect Love provides by His mercy and grace.**

**What is God's complete answer to our complete failure?**

**Justification! A declaration of rightness in Jesus**

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**Romans 3:24 31**

**In the OC, God had revealed His righteousness in many ways before the full revelation of the Gospel**

- His Law
- His judgments against sin
- His appeals through the prophets
- His blessing on the obedient

**But now through the NC in Jesus, the true way of righteousness has been revealed – Rom. 1:16,17; 3:21**

**What is righteousness?**

- an inner sense of worth, of value, of acceptance, a sense of *being right* – a fixing of what is broken

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**How can we obtain righteousness?**

- By acts of the flesh; we can try to earn it by what we do:
  - gangs
  - clubs
  - sports
  - religion
  - intellectual societies
  - higher education
- Why do we crave stuff? clothing, cars, boats, watches, electronics, shoes, outdoor gear?
- Is it to try to fulfill an inner longing of worth, value, acceptance, attention – a feeling of belonging?  
**NONE of these can fulfill us! Romans 3:20; 28**

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## In Christ: His righteousness is mine

**How can we obtain righteousness?**

- By an act of faith in the righteousness of Another.  
**Vv. 21-24**
  - we can receive His righteousness as a **gift** apart from anything we have done, but based on His work on the cross for us!
  - We have worth, value and acceptance in the sight of God, not because of anything that we have done, but because we have believed with faith that Jesus was The Acceptable Sacrifice!
    - Romans 1:17**
    - Titus 3:5**
    - Ephesians 2:8,9**

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**By Faith, through grace and mercy, we are set right! We are given the gift of His righteousness!**

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<sup>21</sup>But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. <sup>22</sup>The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in Him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. <sup>23</sup>Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, <sup>24</sup>God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with Himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. (*Peterson*)

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**What have we done with the free gift of His righteousness?**

**How do we know if we've truly accepted the free gift of righteousness – of an acceptance of the work He did for me on the cross – and have acted on it?**

**How do I live each day of my life?**  
**Survival or Thrival?**

**Romans 5:17**  
**Am I reigning in life, or is my life being rained on?**