

**“But Now”**  
***The Innermost Meaning of the Cross***

Romans 3:21-26  
August 10, 2014 by Kevin Springer

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**I. “But now...”**

**Romans 3:21** *But now* the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

**Righteousness isn’t what you *do*; it’s who you *are*!**

**II. How do you get it?**

**Romans 3:22-24** ...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

**Four aspects of faith...**

**1. Faith that centers on the *person* of Christ**

**Romans 3:22** ...the righteousness of God through **faith in Jesus Christ**...

**2. It’s “all who believe” who are saved; it’s not automatically and universally applied.**

**3. We are made righteous “by his grace as a gift.”**

**Romans 3:23-24** ...for all have sinned... and are justified by his grace **as a gift**...

**4. Christ redeems us.**

**Romans 3:24** ...and are justified by his grace as a gift, **through the redemption** that is in Christ Jesus.

**III. The Innermost meaning of the cross.**

**The How...**

**Romans 3:23-25a** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.**

**The Why...**

**Romans 3:25b-26** This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.