

THE BIG QUESTION

ROMANS 3:21-26

Since the verdict is in—the whole world is guilty as charged—the greatest question of all of course is:

HOW DO I GET RIGHT WITH GOD?

- Even Job, nearly 4,000 years ago, asked that most important of all questions: “*How can a man be in the right before God?*” **JOB 9:2-11**
- Can a mere human being have a right relationship with a God who is perfectly holy, infinite, and mighty?

THE BIBLE IS FILLED WITH THIS QUESTION

- Bildad even echoed Job's question saying, *"How then can a man be just with God?"* **JOB 25:4**
- Upon hearing John the Baptist's fearful warnings about God's judgment, *"the multitudes were questioning him, saying, 'Then what shall we do?'"* **LUKE 3:10**
- The rich young ruler asked Jesus, *"Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"* **MATT. 19:16**
- The Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas, *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"* **ACTS 16:30**

THROUGHOUT HISTORY MEN HAVE THE SAME QUESTION.

WHY IS MAN INHERENTLY RELIGIOUS?

People cannot escape feelings of guilt, not only for doing things they know are wrong, but for being the way they are.

RELIGION IS THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS TO THAT GUILT.

- As far as the way of salvation is concerned, there are really only two religions in the world:
 1. The religion of **DIVINE** accomplishment, which is biblical Christianity—grace through faith in Christ.
 2. The religion of **HUMAN** achievement, which includes all other kinds of religion—salvation by works or organization.

A GOD-SIZED PROBLEM

MAN NEEDS GOD TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM: SIN

- Only the perfectly righteous God Himself can provide the righteousness that men need to be acceptable to Him.
- God's righteousness is different from all other kinds of righteousness in many ways.
 - First of all, it is different because of its source.
 - Second, God's righteousness is different in essence.
 - Third, God's righteousness is unique in its duration.

Now we see the God of love who reaches out to sinful men.

WHAT DOES THE ANSWER LOOK LIKE?

THE FACES OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS:

1. God's righteousness is apart from legalism. **v. 21a**
2. God's righteousness is built on His revelation. **v. 21b**
3. God's righteousness is acquired by faith. **v. 22a**
 - Saving faith is more than truths about Jesus.
 - Saving faith in Jesus Christ involves the will.
 - Saving faith also involves the emotions.
 - Saving faith also involves the intellect.

MORE FACES

4. God's righteousness is sufficient for all. **v. 22-23**
5. God's righteousness is given freely through grace. **v. 24a**
6. God's righteousness is accomplished by redemption.
v. 24b
7. God's righteousness was paid by atoning sacrifice.
v. 25a

**GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST'S
SACRIFICE WHICH APPEASED THE WRATH OF GOD.**

QUESTION: HOW CAN I KNOW HIM?

THE ANSWER: It is not religion or legalism; no works needed.

- Built on the Bible
- It is a gift by faith
- Provided for all who call on the name of the Lord
- Given freely through God's amazing grace
- Accomplished by redemption
- Paid for by atoning sacrifice

**OR THE SHORT VERSION:
BY TRUSTING AND BELIEVING IN JESUS!**