

Forensic Grace

Intro:

As crazy as it may sound...
You will never really understand Christ
You will never truly understand the cross
And you will never accurately understand Christianity
until you understand these six verses

Problem:

Zech 3:1-4

How can God forgive Joshua? Joshua is clearly unrighteous. God is obviously a perfect judge. So how can God forgive? How can He just give Him a new robe? How can He take His iniquity? Where does it go?

How can a Holy perfect God of justice actually forgive unrighteous sinners?

Romans 3:21-26 is the answer

Main Idea:

Righteousness is magnified

Grace is applied

wrath is satisfied

Justice is verified

And the believer is justified

Implication:

Col 1:21-22

we are too philosophical sometimes about the cross - we forget it actually, objectively happened

we have been objectively, forensically reconciled, in an objective event in space-time history

In the gospel of forensic grace

Application:

2 Cor 5:21-6:2

forensic grace is objective grace and objective salvation

in other words because something actually happened at the cross

Today is objectively the day of salvation for you who believe

there was no soundtrack at the cross - no chords to make you cry

it actually happened and the invitation to salvation is actually real as well right now!!!

Articles for further study:

<http://www.gracesermons.com/robbeeee/imputed.html>

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/two-important-words-good-friday-expiation-and-propitiation/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-is-truth/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/the-gospel-2016-national-conference/gospel-as-historical-fact/>

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Text:

Righteousness is magnified

Rom. 3:21 **But** now **the righteousness of God** has been **manifested (perfect tense) apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—**

- Rom 1:16-18 (good news - reveals His righteousness)
- Rom 1:18; 3:10-20 (and we need it)
- Rom 3:5, 21, 22, 25, 26 (no righteousness in us - Had to be found in Him)
- Lk 18:18-20 (The Law bears witness)
- Matt 5:16-17 (that only one is good)

Grace is applied

Rom. 3:22 **the righteousness of God** through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom. 3:24a and are **justified (same word)** by his **grace** as a gift,

- Phil 3:9 (justification is not a Divine pardon - it is a judicial declaration of righteousness ...but upon what grounds???)
- Lk 23:25 (imputation - penal substitution)
- Rom 5:17 (He gave us His righteousness)

Wrath is satisfied

Rom 3:24b through the **redemption** (paid in full) that is in Christ Jesus,

Rom. 3:25a whom God put forward as a **propitiation (hilasterion)** by his blood, to be received by faith.

- Mk 10:45 (we were not redeemed by pardon but by payment)
- 1 Jn 1:8-2:2 (expiation - prefix ex = from -> man separated)
- Heb 2:14-19 (Propitiation - (prefix pro = for -> God satisfied)
- Heb 9:5 (propitiation = OT mercy seat - place of propitiation)
- Lk 18:13 (God be propitious - appeasement = the means of mercy)
- 1 Jn 4:8-10 (the cross is the intersection of undiluted wrath and undiluted love)

Justice is verified

Rom 3:25b This was to **show God's righteousness**, because in his **divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.**

Rom. 3:26a It was to **show his righteousness** at the **present time**, so that he might be **just and the justifier**

- Lev 16:6-10 (propitiation deferred) Lev 16:20-22 (expiation deferred)
- Heb 10:1-4 (applied)
- Jn 1:29-31 (behold - visible at the present time)
- Isa 52:13-53:12 (this is what it looks like to be justified by a holy God of perfect justice)

And the believer is justified

Rom 3:26b of the one who has **faith** in Jesus.

- Col 1:21-22 (implication)