

Bible e-Study on the book of Romans (3)

The Key

“22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe... so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:22 & 26b

NUGGET – These verses from the 3rd chapter of Romans are key for Christians! Only righteousness pure, true, and perfect righteousness is what satisfies the demands of the law given to men by the Creator. And only such satisfaction gives a person access to the holy and perfect God of all creation, the God of heaven and earth. That’s what drives our need for significance and to answer the question for what is our reason for existence. Though they may protest it, deny it or try to substitute other ‘deities’ still there is no one who doesn’t want this access, this key, to the Creator.

I have many keys. Some on two key rings I often carry with me. More on another key ring on my dresser. And yet still more keys in various drawers and toolboxes around my house. They all serve the same purpose, but they are not interchangeable. Only one key will unlock my car, but that same key will not unlock my house or my office. You have to have the correct key to access entry to where you want to go.

And so it is with going to God. There is only one key, righteousness, that gives you entry to God. So our problem becomes, how to be righteous. And our first nugget verse partially answers that question – *righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe*. And the second nugget verse backs that up, that having faith in Jesus is what justifies us before God. That justification is what answers the need to fulfill the law of God.

That’s all well and good, however why is Jesus the only one key in whom faith, justification and righteousness is found? Why is it that Jesus alone works to give access to God? That answer is found, along with our first nugget verse, also in verse 25, which says, *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood*. Jesus is the single one whom God put forward to answer our need for access to Him. Jesus is that key to righteousness that we all need. It is the shedding Jesus blood from the cross that pays for all sin. For a Christian none of this is really new. However, it is always new and needful for every Christian to live in that faith: the faith that singly trusts in Jesus.

No one can have access to God in any other way than through faith in Jesus. You can believe and understand many things about Jesus – the man, the person, and the historical figure – without having faith in Him as God’s presentation to the world. You can know who Jesus is without trust in Him as the One to atone for sin and sent to acquire righteousness for all people. It is only by faith in Jesus as the one sent by God from heaven to fulfill the law and win atonement that we are granted righteousness. Trust, belief, in the truth that Jesus is sent from God is the key. He alone grants us access to the Father. Believing *THAT*, believing that Jesus came from God to atone for sin, grants us by His grace alone pure, true, and perfect righteousness. That is the only key.

APPLICATION -

1. The application today is an easy one isn’t it? The next time you take out a key to unlock anything, don’t put it in the lock without first thinking of the access you have to God in heaven. That you trust in the One key to heaven, the name and the blood of Jesus Christ!

PRAY – O Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen our faith to greater trust that You have been sent from God that we may be granted the key to the kingdom of Heaven. In Your name, Amen.