The Propitiation of God

Robert Harkrider · Romans 3:23–26 · Series: **Grace Isn't Cheap**

INTRODUCTION

- Romans chapter 3, verses 23 through 26. Which really is one of the most significant passages in the book of Romans.
- That he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Christ Jesus.

1 What Does the Word Propitiation Mean?

Hebrews 9:5; Exodus 25:22

- To have skipped this verse and not to understand the meaning of propitiation, they may as well have really misunderstood the rest of Romans.
- This word Helesterion is translated mercy seat.
- It literally carries the idea of the appeasement of wrath. The atonement of God is to appease the wrath of God against sins of mankind.

2 Does God Really Have Wrath?

Romans 1:18; John 3:36; Numbers 16:46

- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth or hinder the truth.
- The very last verse of John chapter 3, the scripture says, the wrath of God abides on the unbeliever.
- He is love. But he is also a God who has manifested his characteristic of wrath.
- People who rebel against God, over and over, the scripture shows the characteristic of God that his wrath would come against them.

3 A God of Love and a God of Justice

Isaiah 30:18; Genesis 2:17; Isaiah 59:1–2

- God is a God of love, but he's also a God of justice. Justice means that God will deal with his law in a fair and righteous way.
- For all his ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice and upright is he.
- But your iniquities have separated you from God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear.
- Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden because they had eaten of that forbidden fruit. God loved them. But God is just.

4 How Could a Just God Save Anyone?

Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

- If God's wrath is upon sinners, we're all in trouble, aren't we?

- The world wants to undermine the severity of sin. The world wants to ignore, as though God ignores sin. But the Bible never ignores sin.
- It's shallow thinking to question how could God condemn anyone. That's shallow thinking. We ought rather to ask, how could a just God save anyone?

5 Mercy, Justice and Grace

Ephesians 2:4–5

- Mercy carries the idea that one does not receive what he deserves.
- Justice carries where the idea is you receive what you do deserve.
- Grace is when one receives what he does not deserve.
- But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

6 That He Might Be Just and the Justifier

Romans 3:26; John 12:42–43; Galatians 3:26–27

- It is by grace that there is forgiveness provided. But the reality is, my beloved, is that justice is still exercised.
- The reality is Jesus paid the judicial penalty.
- Jesus Christ appeased the wrath of God against sinners.
- But the scripture does not say everybody is going to be saved. He's the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **I ask you this morning, have you yielded yourself to the gospel of Jesus Christ?**

MY NOTES