**It is finished! – Rom. 3:24**

**Focal Truth: Believing sinners are declared righteous by God because of the**

 **death of Jesus Christ**

Do you consider yourself a righteous person?

What is righteousness? What does righteousness have to do with sinfulness?

Do you consider yourself to be right with God?

How were you made right with God?

**Observations**

**1. All people are born sinners living in unrighteousness – 3:10 -18**

 a. No one is righteous – 10

 b. No one understands God – 10

 c. No one does good – 12

 d. No one speaks good – 13 – 14

 e. No one lives a life of peace – 16 -17

 f. No one fears God – 18

The indictment against sinners is clear – ***no one is righteous – no one is right with God!***

**2. God declares the unrighteous as righteous by their faith in Christ – 3:21 -23**

*But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe, for the there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

a. Now there is gospel righteousness not law righteousness – 21

 b. Gospel righteousness has now appeared confirmed by the law – 21

 c. Righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe – 22

 d. Every sinner who believes receives gospel righteousness – 22

 e. ***Rom 4:5 – but to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who***

 ***justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness***

1. Saving faith is an act of the will
2. Saving faith is an act emotions’
3. Saving faith is an act of the mind

The good news of the gospel is clear – **everyone sinner who believes in Jesus is declared righteous!**

**3. God declares the unrighteous as righteous by His grace – 3:24**

*being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*

1. Believing sinners are justified = declared righteous, innocent, just
2. God’s act of declaring a believing sinner righteous is a gift not anything that a sinner can earn

 c. God declares believing sinners righteous by His grace

 1. God’s grace = pleasure, kindness, graciousness

 d. Eph. 2:8 – for by grace you have been saved through faith

God’s righteousness is revealed **- in declaring believing sinners as righteous!**

**4. God declares the unrighteous as righteous by Christ’s death – 3:24**

*being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*

 a. Jesus Christ death on the cross paid the ransom for the unrighteous to be

 declared righteous

 b. 3:25 - God displayed publicly on the cross the payment for sin in Christ

 blood

 c. 3:25 – God’s righteousness was revealed in Christ’s death on the cross

 d. 3:26 – God’s in righteousness justifies the believing sinner

The final payment is made – **Christ died for sinners to be declared righteous!**

**Things to Remember**

1.No one is born in a right relationship with God because everyone sins

2. Nothing is greater than being declared righteous before God

3. Righteousness given is never deserved

4. Righteousness received leads to righteousness lived

**Daily Use**

1. Admit that you are unrighteous because of your sinfulness

2. Put your faith in Jesus Christ – God will declare you righteous

3. Rejoice! God in righteousness can make you righteous

4. Live in the joy of a right relationship with God!

**Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**

The old hymn reads: Not what my hands have done, can save my guilty soul,

Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole,

Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God,

Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak

Thy power alone, O Son of God can this sore bondage break

No other work save thine, no other blood will do,

No strength save that which is divine can bear me safely through