

## THE GOSPEL IS RESISTED

ROMANS 3:21-31 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD  
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*I may claim the mercy of Christ when I realize that it is...righteousness by believing (3:21-22a), glory by confessing (3:22b-23), redemption by grace (3:24), forgiveness by substitution (3:25-26), and obedience by faith (3:27-31).*

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does this passage have to say to people who have been striving to achieve righteousness by following the Law? (Romans 3:21-22, 28)
- What do we attempt to gain by fitting people into moral hierarchies so that one is more or less righteous than another? In light of Romans 3:23, can anyone claim a moral advantage, based on good deed, that requires God to overlook their sins?
- It's been said that confession is good for the soul. What do you gain by confessing that you are not able to attain salvation by scoring points with God for doing good things?
- What keeps you aware of your need for Christ? Can you point to an aspect of your life that makes it obvious that your salvation is an act of mercy?
- How should a person who has not been leading a good life respond to the idea that God has punished his own son in their place?

- How can the idea of propitiation by substitution be a motivating force for good as it comes to accepting and being accepted by other believers regardless of your moral history?
- Consider the tax collector's prayer in Luke 18:9-14 as he plead for mercy. Did the Pharisee require the same mercy? What do you think Jesus would want you to learn from this parable?
- Did Jesus have to die so that you could be redeemed from sin? Could it have been anyone else who died in your place?