

Small group optional guide: What God requires, God himself provides

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through the word & worship

WORD: Romans 3:21–31 stands as the turning point of Paul’s Gospel argument — where guilt meets grace, and grace reveals the righteousness of God. Up to verse 20, the law only condemned; it functioned like a speed camera — not creating guilt but exposing it. “But now,” Paul says, God has revealed a righteousness apart from the law — a new way of being made right with Him.

1. The Picture and the Indictment (vv. 21–23) Paul levels the field: all have sinned, whether religious or not, privileged or poor, moral or immoral. Every defence crumbles — unbelief doesn’t remove guilt, “being good” doesn’t meet God’s standard, and status can’t save. We have all fallen short of God’s glory. Humanity stands condemned, helpless — like soldiers trapped at Dunkirk, awaiting rescue.

2. The Gospel Solution — Propitiation (vv. 24–25) Into that hopelessness, God launches His rescue. He “put forward” Christ as a propitiation — the sacrifice that turns away His just wrath. What we could not pay, God Himself provided. Unlike pagan religion, where humans offer gifts to appease a god, the Gospel reverses it: God provides the offering to reconcile us to Himself. “What God requires, God provides.” Like Abraham on Mount Moriah, the Lord Himself provides the Lamb.

3. Answering Objections:

- Is wrath unworthy of God? No — without wrath, there is no justice. A God indifferent to evil cannot be good.
- Isn’t propitiation pagan? No — in paganism humans pay; in the Gospel, God pays.

Is it unjust for Jesus to die for others? No — because the One wronged (God) steps into the dock Himself. The Judge pays the fine. “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” (2 Cor 5:19). At the cross, God’s justice and love meet perfectly: justice satisfied, love expressed.

4. The Result (vv. 27–31) Since salvation is by grace through faith...

(continued)...all boasting is excluded. None can claim merit; all glory belongs to Christ. The cross levels every distinction — we are equal sinners, equally loved.

What This Means for Us: **1. Confess honestly** - Practice: Ask God this week to show you one specific sin. Name it, confess it, and rest in His forgiveness. **2. Receive justification by faith** - Stand before God as righteous because of Christ. **3. Guard against presumption** - Grace is not a license to sin — it’s the power to live differently. True grace transforms, not excuses.

Application Questions

- 1) What “rope” might you still be trusting — good works, reputation, comparison — instead of resting in Christ’s finished work?
- 2) How does knowing that the Judge paid your fine Himself change the way you view sin and forgiveness?
- 3) Where might grace need to move you from guilt or striving into humble gratitude and transformed living this week?

Worship songs from Sunday:

Christ is enough / Who else / Goodness of God / Yet not I

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

At the East Grinstead Big Reveal on Saturday 15th November we will have a gazebo giving hot chocolates next to the churches together stall where our carol service will be promoted. We will be running from 430pm - 8pm and need 6 people on the stall from start to finish. we will tell people Jesus loves them and offer prayer to anyone who wants it. Please contact matt@jcccg.co.uk if you can serve for 1 hour and help love our town.

We only have 3 sign ups so far, please join us if you can.

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

On the 2nd page is information on the singleness and marriage focus week.

Small group focus week: we are all either single or married, on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th November we have a night for everyone. Please go to the website calendar and book in for either evening:

the single life

LIVING FULLY FOR THE LORD

an evening to encourage and
inspire, celebrating the freedom
and calling of singleness

**TUESDAY 25TH NOV
730PM @JCC**

This autumn, we're once again setting aside an evening especially for those who are single — of all ages and stages — to gather, be encouraged, and be reminded of the unique gift and calling of singleness.

Our prayer is that this evening will **inspire, comfort, and bless** anyone who is single — whether you've been single for a while, newly single, or simply curious about what faithful Christian singleness looks like today.

Come with an open heart — you don't need to come knowing anyone or feeling confident. Just come. We trust that you'll leave **encouraged, seen, and strengthened** to live wholeheartedly for the Lord right where you are.

Marriage date night

26/11 Wednesday
7:30pm - 9:30pm

a night of encouragement
for your marriage

in person at Va-nak-kam

OR
in your own home

The Marriage date night is an evening that a married couple will be participate either in person at the Va-nak-kam restaurant over a meal or from your own home (no need for baby sitters!).

Either book for a table at the restaurant, or book for a gift bag with the date night activities inside to do at home.

The pack for you to collect from JCC will contain some treats, questions and conversation starters that will help bless and encourage your marriage, and point you toward signing up for the online Marriage Course.