



# ROMANS

Being a Christian instead  
of being Religious

8. A God who does it all  
Romans 3:21-31

- 1:18-3:20: The bad news – no way to make ourselves acceptable to God
- v21 “But now” – now we come to the good news
- v21-26 The plight of man meets the power of God

## 1. Christianity is about what God does

- “from God... by Christ Jesus... God presented him... He did this”
- 1:18-3:20 – all about man’s attempts. In 3:21-26 – God acts:-
  - a) God provides righteousness to cover our guilt (Justification)**
    - He deals with the problem of sin – We aren’t righteous, and can’t be
    - “a righteousness from God that comes through ... Jesus” v22
    - In Jesus’ perfect life, God provides the righteousness he requires
    - Jesus’ perfect life will be credited to our account and God can declare us righteous/not guilty - the verdict of the Day of Judgment
  - b) God provides freedom for slaves (Redemption)**
    - He deals with the power of sin over us – it holds us captive
    - We are caught up in living for ourselves and can’t get free
    - “through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” v24
    - Slaves could be **redeemed** from slavery if someone cleared their debts
    - Christ takes on our debts and frees us at great personal cost
  - c) God provides delight not wrath (Propitiation)**
    - He deals with the penalty of sin for us
    - “God presented him as a propitiation [one who turns aside wrath]” v25
    - Our sin accrues God’s wrath. It has to be paid for
    - Instead of demanding payment, God offers to pay
    - Jesus’ death on the cross is the sacrifice to end all sacrifice, it is the end of wrath

- And it is all free to us! But at great cost to God.

## 2. What God does is grasped by Faith

- The offer isn’t blanket coverage for all – it has to be accepted
  - a) By Faith**
    - 8 times v21-31 – by faith...through faith... have faith... who believe
    - God wants a relationship, and relationships are built on trust
    - Not just knowing, not just believing facts, but trusting them
  - b) Faith in Jesus**
    - Not faith itself which saves – “through faith in Jesus Christ”
    - Trusting in what God did at the Cross is what will get you accepted
    - All that is necessary for salvation is accomplished
    - All that we need to do is accept what God is giving

# Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 10th May 09

Welcome to our service this morning - today we are remembering Christ’s death for sinners as we take part in the Lord’s Supper.

If you are a Christian and haven’t joined with us for the Lord’s Supper before, and haven’t yet spoken to the elders about your faith in Jesus Christ, we’d invite you to watch, and come and speak to Mark before our next communion.

If you aren’t a Christian, or not sure, we’d invite you to watch as well, and if you have any questions, speak to Mark or one of the elders afterwards.

### Notices

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|----------------------|--|-----|
| Sab 10 <sup>th</sup> | Communion Thanksgiving Service: Romans 4 - Responding in Faith   | 8pm |
| Wed                  | Prayer Time - Praying for each other and the work in Milford   | 8pm |
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> | Western Presbytery Youth Event 5-a-side Football Tournament<br>Finn Valley AC, Millbrae, Stranorlar and afterwards at Stranorlar RP church.<br>Arrive early for 7:30pm kickoff. Teams of 5 players 14+years, with 2 subs allowed.<br>Please email/text number of teams you will be bringing<br>Separate matches will be organised for any players under 14 years<br>Pitches are astroturf so bring appropriate footwear please.<br>Those not wishing to play or watch can go direct to church for other games<br>Robert Cromie +44 75 963644000 robertcromie@gmail.com<br>John Cromie 087 2341599 or john@skylark.ie |     |

### Presbytery News

Presbytery met on Wednesday evening. Items covered included:

- Enniskillen fellowship were looking for permission to call a mission worker to work alongside Robert Robb. Also looking for funding for a new premises they have been offered at a cheap rent for 7 days a week, instead of a few hours on a Sunday
- Reviewing the annual reports of each of the congregations and drafting a report of the Presbytery’s work for the Synod (the body which oversees the whole church).
- There was a report on the outreach work in Derry which has led to several Chinese people coming to bible studies, services and the Christianity Explored course. Funding for outreach work in Derry and also Convoy was approved

Sunday 17th - New Series - Psalms for a broken World - Psalm 37

Opening Psalm: 76:5-8

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