

**RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES**  
**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION**  
**Romans 3:21-26** (\* adapted from a Matthias Media study on [www.gotherefor.com](http://www.gotherefor.com))

1. From Romans 1:18-3:20, Paul has been arguing one key idea about what people are like. What is it? Are you convinced? Spend a few moments reviewing and summarizing what has been said.
2. The word “But” in verse 21 means that Paul is now moving on to make a new point. What is that point?
3. On what basis can Paul say in 3:23 that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”?
4. According to 3:24-25:
  - a. What happens by grace?
  - b. What does the word ‘**redemption**’ suggest about our life before we became Christians, and our life after?
  - c. What does the word ‘**propitiation**’ suggest about our life before we became Christians, and our life after?
  - d. What does “by his blood” mean in verse 25?
  - e. What do these two verses say about what it means to become a Christian?

‘**Redemption**’ has its roots in the experience of Israel in Egypt under Pharaoh, before they were led out by Moses from their slavery. Essentially, redemption is the payment of a price to release someone or something from a form of bondage—such as slavery or some economic captivity— after which the thing redeemed belongs to the one who paid the price.

‘**Propitiation**’ likewise is grounded in the experience of Israel. Propitiation literally means the averting of anger (in this case, God’s) by the offering of a sacrifice. The entire Old Testament sacrificial system had at its heart the death of bulls, goats and sheep to pay the penalty for sin (as Romans 6:23 says, “the wages of sin is death”). By offering the blood of the sacrifice instead of the blood of the guilty person, God was ‘propitiated’—that is, his anger was turned aside.

7. According to Paul’s argument in these verses, how does the cross manage to demonstrate *both* God’s mercy *and* his justice?
  - How does the death of Jesus in Romans 3:21-26 affect:
    - o our sense of worth?
    - o the cause of our guilt?
    - o our certainty about the future?
    - o our anxiety about God’s anger and judgement?
    - o our need to impress God or others?

