

Romans

SERMON SERIES

Two Weeks Ago:
Obituary of Self-Justification
Romans 3:9-20

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

What is the main question in Romans?

Paul's Question:

*“How can a just God allow anyone in
heaven?”*

Last Week's Sermon:

But Now

Romans 3:21-24

Romans 3:21-26



**“The chief point, and
the very central place
of the Epistle, and of
the whole Bible.”**

Martin Luther

Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

How can a just God allow anyone into his presence?

- 1) Apart from the law**
- 2) The OT tells us this everywhere!**
- 3) In case you missed it...**
- 4) What is the OT bearing witness to?**
- 5) Only as a gift**

This Week's Sermon:
Publicly Displayed
Romans 3:25a

Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith.

1. Publicly Displayed

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith. ESV

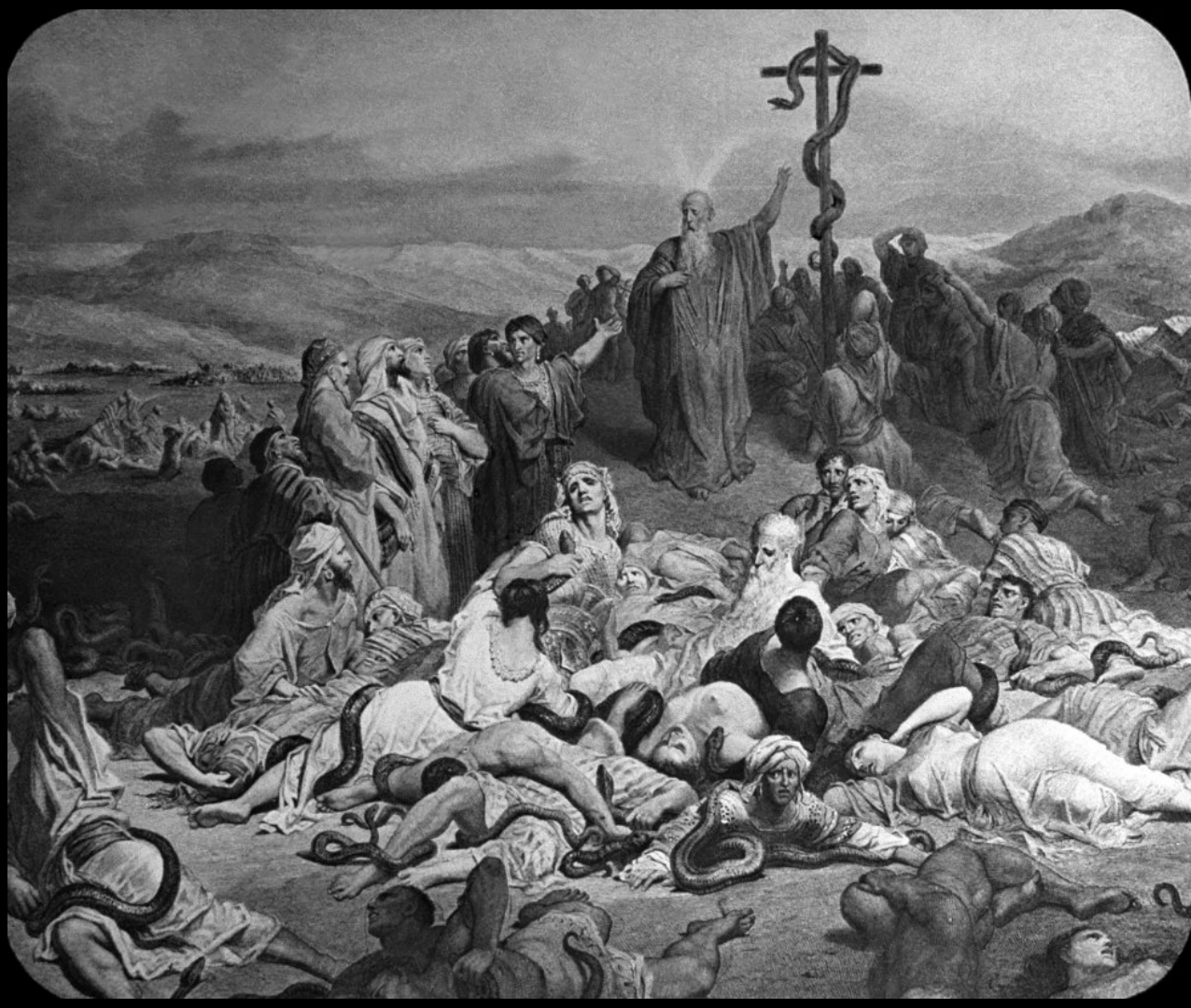
Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith. ESV

²⁵ whom God displayed publicly... NASB

John 3:9-15

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.



Heb 12:3-4

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

1. Publicly Displayed
2. Propitiation

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith.

Propitiation: the act of gaining or regaining the favor
or goodwill of someone or something : the act
of propitiating : APPEASEMENT

a sacrifice in *propitiation* of the gods



MELINOE was a frightful, underworld goddess who presided over propitiations offered to the ghosts of the dead. At night she wandered the earth with her train of ghosts, striking fear into the hearts of men.

1) What is the wrath of God?

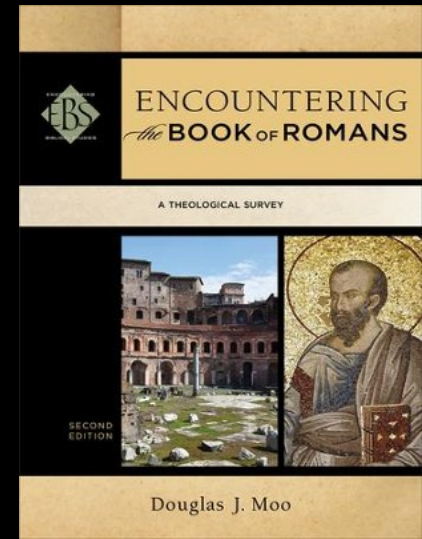
: strong vengeful anger or indignation

: retributory punishment for an offense or a crime : divine chastisement

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wrath>

“Linguistics and the Meaning of Romans 3:25”

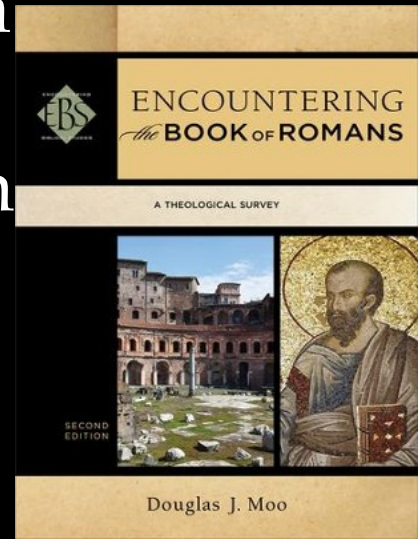
“In my exposition of verse 25, I have argued that the Greek word *hilasterion* alludes both to the idea of propitiation and to the Old Testament ‘mercy seat’ or ‘atonement cover’.”



Douglas Moo, pg. 84

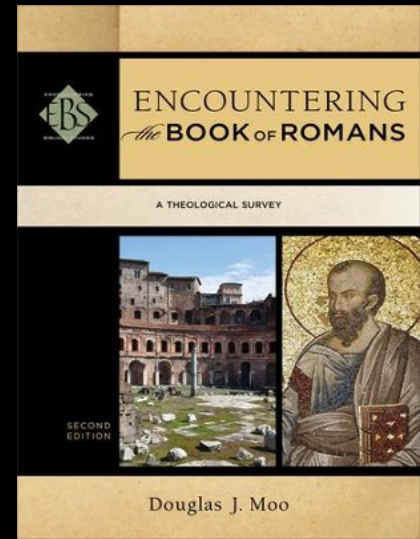


“To ‘propitiate’ means to ‘placate’ someone’s wrath, as in the sentence ‘I propitiated my wife’s wrath by taking her out to dinner.’ The Greeks used the word to refer to memorials or sacrifices that were intended to placate the wrath of the gods, and Paul’s focus on God’s wrath in his description of the human dilemma (see 1:18; 2:5) makes it likely that he refers to Christ as a means of propitiation here... Because the Greeks portrayed their gods as all-too-human in their petty jealousies, intrigues, and self-seeking, the



wrath they attributed to those gods was often selfishly motivated or senseless. But of course the biblical view of the true God is quite different. Attributed to him, wrath is not an uncontrolled emotion but the settled and necessary reaction of a holy God to sin of any kind.”

Douglas Moo, pg. 84-85



- 1. Publicly Displayed**
- 2. Propitiation**
- 3. By His Blood**

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith.

This word (*hilasterion*) is translated as “mercy seat” 21 of the 27 times we find that word in the Septuagint.

So what is the “mercy seat?”

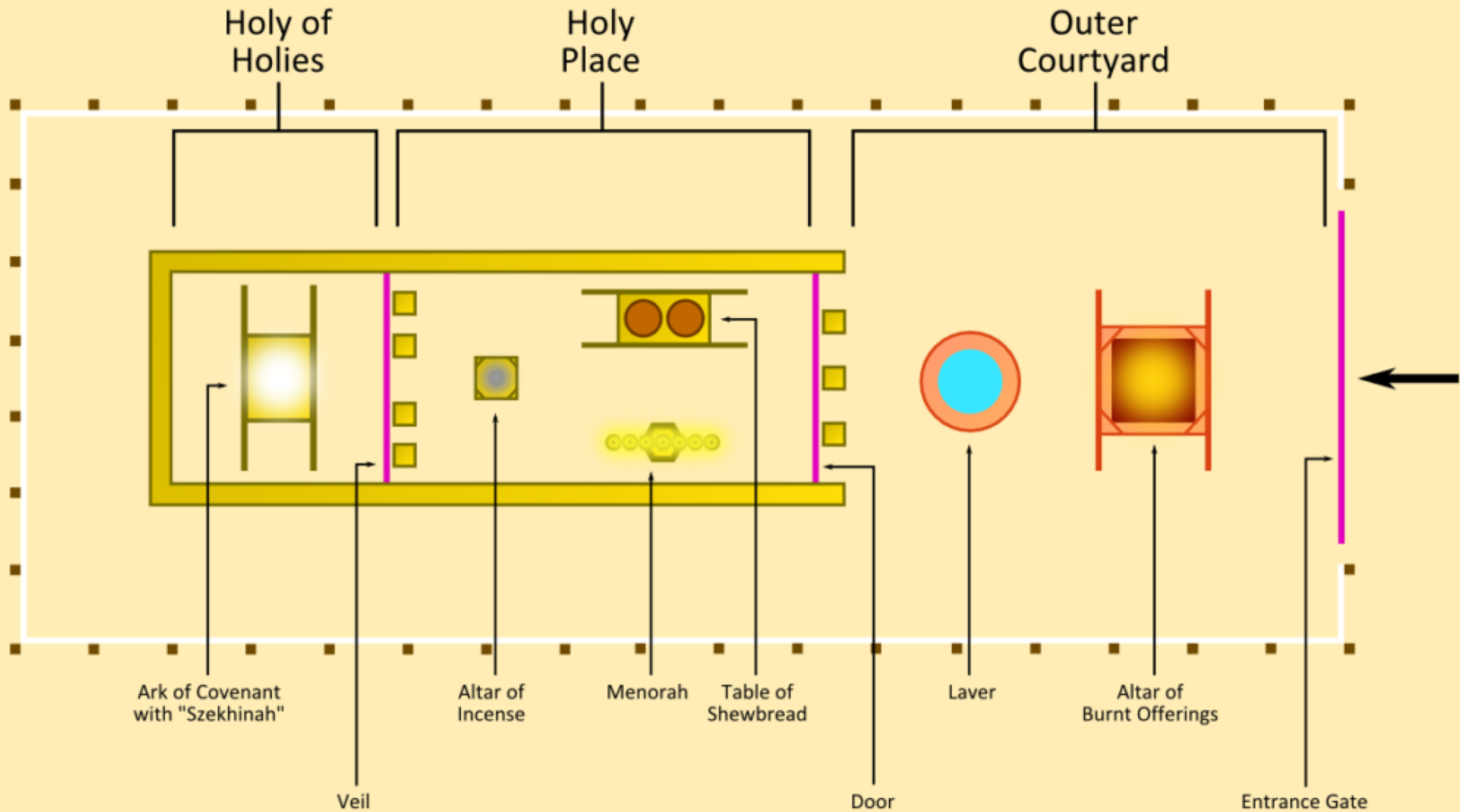


Leviticus 16:11-14

¹¹ “ Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. ¹² And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil

Leviticus 16:11-14

¹³ and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. ¹⁴ And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.



This word (*hilasterion*) is translated as “mercy seat” 21 of the 27 times we find that word in the Septuagint.

So what is the “mercy seat?”

Day of Atonement – Mercy Seat

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith.

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

Luke 18:9-14

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- 1. Publicly Displayed**
- 2. Propitiation**
- 3. By His Blood**
- 4. By Faith**

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith.

**How many things have we put our
unwavering faith in this morning already?**

**How many things have we put our
unwavering faith in this morning already?**

**Why is it so hard to put our unwavering faith
in Jesus?**



Gospel Application

But now... Because of Jesus, whom God put forward as a mercy seat by his blood, to be received by faith, can we approach the throne of God.

Matthew 26:26-29

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."