



**Believe**  
**Romans 3:21-26**  
**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**  
**May 21, 2017**

**The Bottom Line: A right standing with God is available from God through Christ to everybody that believes.**

**Introduction:**

John, who spent three years with Jesus, looks back on that time, and here is his summary:

“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him **known** (John 1:17-18).”

John believed one reason Jesus came was to clarify whom God was in to lay the groundwork for a new kind of relationship with God.

Jesus came to change the spiritual paradigm.

- How to relate to him.
- How to think about him.
- How to approach him.

Jesus gave us several word pictures to help us think correctly about spiritual reality.

- He compared it to a father and a child. God is a father.
- He compared our relationship to him as a branch abiding in the vine.
- He compared his life in us as a well of spring water.

All of this is in an attempt to paint an accurate picture of how we are to think about and relate to God.

But the initial invitation was a **simple** one: **Follow**.

In fact, those who followed found themselves drawn to take a second simple step: **Believe**.

In fact, there was an episode later in Jesus' ministry when the disciples found it hard to follow. Jesus asked them if they wanted to quit following. They said, "To whom shall we go? For we have believed and have come to know that you are the holy one of God (John 6:68-69)."

After following, they began believing. They were not just believing in his message or philosophy or teaching. They had come to believe in **who** he claimed to be.

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to *all* who believe. There is no difference, for *all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by *his grace* through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God *presented him* as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did *this* to demonstrate his *justice*, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed before unpunished – he did *it* to demonstrate his *justice* at the present time, so as to be *just* and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)

**A right standing with God is available from God through Christ to ALL who believe in Jesus – the person.**

God does not want people to spend a minute of their lives trying to earn something God has already given free.

### **Conclusion:**

The goal is to be so convinced of **WHO** Jesus is and so grateful for **what** Jesus has done, you willingly choose to **do** what Jesus says.

***A right standing with God is available from God through Christ to EVERYBODY who believes.***

What about you? Have you ever said yes to God and accepted his gift of a right standing with him?

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- ❑ **Memorize: John 1:17-18.**
- ❑ **Pastor, today I have decided to believe Jesus.**
- ❑ **Come back next week for Part 3 of Simple: Obey.**