

Romans 3:1-4

**Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,
“That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.”**

Romans 3:5-8

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Romans 3:9-17

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” ¹³ “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” ¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Luke 14:5

And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?”

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Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Luke 10:34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? (See Psalm 82:6)

Romans 3:20

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21-26

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. 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.

Δικαιοσύνη Θεοῦ
Dikaionuse Theou
Righteousness God

πίστεως Ἰησοῦ

For Paul, there is a clear distinction. God's own righteousness is *dikaiosune theou*. The status of 'righteous' which people enjoy as a result of God's action in Christ and by the Spirit is, in Philippians 3.9, *he ek theou dikaiosune*, the righteous status which is 'from God'. Ignoring this distinction, and translating *dikaiosune theou* as 'a righteousness from God' or something like that, makes nonsense of several passages, most noticeably Romans 3.21–26... N.T. Wright

Δικαιοσύνη **Θεοῦ**
Dikaionuse **Theou**
Righteousness **God**

πίστεως **Ἰησοῦ**
Pisteos **Iesou**
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Faith **Jesus**
Faithfulness

But our problems here are eliminated immediately, not to mention gracefully, if the meaning of *pistis* in these statements is related directly to Christ. Such a reading completes the exact sense of these Pauline statements nicely: “the *dikaioσuné theou* is disclosed or revealed by means of the *pistis* of Jesus Christ.”

D.A. Campbell

Righteousness of God = God's covenant keeping actions

Manifested = revealed, made visible, brought into reality

Pistis Iesou – the faithfulness/obedience of Jesus

But now [God's covenant keeping/promise keeping actions have] been [made plain and visible] apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² [God kept his covenant with Israel] through [the faithfulness of] Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Romans 3:21-26

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