

***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

**Romans 3:21-31**  
**Sunday, July 17, 2016**  
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

**1. What are some of the ways God reveals His righteousness?**

Through His Law revealed and written in the Scriptures, including the Prophets, who called people to live righteously. Through people’s reason and conscience and His actions in history and nature. Through the life and words of Jesus Christ. Through the death of Jesus, God’s Son, for the forgiveness of sins. Through the life and words of faithful Christians and faithful Churches. Through God’s discipline when people refuse to repent. Through many revelations of God’s love, holiness, justice and mercy.

**2. What is another way to refer to or define the Law of God or the moral law?**

The Law of Love (the command to love God and others).

**3. In addition to revealing His Law in the Bible, why did God need to send Jesus Christ into the world?**

The Law of God shows us that we have not loved God and others as God commanded; we have sinned and deserve temporal discipline and eternal punishment from God. God needed to send Jesus Christ into the world in order to uphold and honor His Law when He forgives sinners, who might otherwise come to think that their forgiveness means God is not serious about enforcing His Law with penalties because God does not think obeying His Law is important. The written Law of God could not perfectly demonstrate how God wants people to love and live, but through His Son God could do this through

His words and actions. After His resurrection and ascension into heaven, Jesus could send the Holy Spirit to indwell Christians and empower and guide Christians as God intends them to live according to His Law of Love.

#### **4. Why do you think God either needed to punish sinners or send Jesus, His Son, to die in order to forgive sinners?**

God is King of the universe and reigns over all of creation. God reigns as King over the Kingdom of God. God needs to uphold His Kingdom and enforce just laws so people will respect His just rule as their King. God needs to punish sinners so they will learn to respect Him and His Law or God needs to provide a substitute that will achieve the same or similar purpose. The sacrificial death of God's only begotten Son in behalf of sinners, so God can be just when He justifies sinners, upholds the Kingdom of God and shows the value God places on just government when He graciously and mercifully forgives sinners instead of punishing them as they deserve.

#### **5. How important is faith in Jesus?**

Essential for salvation, to be forgiven for our sins, to be cleansed from our sins, to be born again, to be right with God, to be in a right relationship with God, to receive the gift of eternal life and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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