



## **God in Christ Suffered What We Deserve**

### **Romans 3:21-31**

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God (Romans 3:25—KJV).*

*Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed (Romans 3:25—NASB).*

*Whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed (Romans 3:25—NRSV).*

Every time a government leader fails to enforce just laws and execute just punishments, he and his government lose the respect of those who support the rule of law. Unhappily, when God has exercised patient restraint and not punished lawbreakers immediately, some people have accused God of not being good or just—forgetting that God’s forbearance has saved them from His immediate punishment many times. In order for God to demonstrate both His regard for His law and how much He wants people to love Him and others, God could either decisively and immediately punish those who sin or execute a different plan. Before God created the world, He chose to do something other than punish every sinner forever to prove how much He respected His law and wanted people to obey Him and love others. So God could show how much He loves everyone and demonstrate how much He honors His law, God decided to send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die a sacrificial death and accept within himself the pain of suffering for sins that sinners deserve. God sent Jesus so those who receive Jesus by faith could be forgiven, cleansed from sin, made righteous, and receive divine power to love God and others rightly. God will never nullify the law that Jesus died to uphold and that commands everyone to love God and others. As their understanding of why Jesus died for them increases, believers will grow in their love and respect for God and His law.

## Thinking Further

1. What are some of the ways God reveals His righteousness?
2. What is another way to refer to or define the Law of God or the moral law?
3. In addition to revealing His Law in the Bible, why did God need to send Jesus Christ into the world?
4. Why do you think God either needed to punish sinners or send Jesus, His Son, to die in order to forgive sinners?
5. How important is faith in Jesus?