

‘BUT NOW’
There is a Way Out
Romans 3:21-31



THE BOOK OF

ROMANS

Romans 3:21-31

***The Centre and Heart of
the Letter'***

Professor Cranfield

***'Possibly the most important single
paragraph ever written'***

Dr Leon Morris



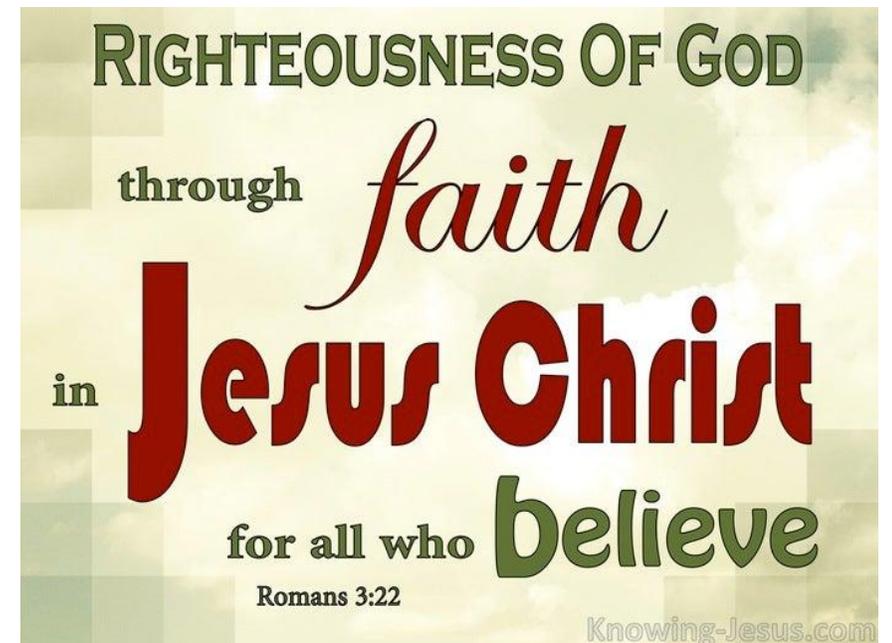
Romans 3:21-31

'BUT NOW' A Way Out

A great turning point!
*God's Righteousness and
Perfection Revealed*

Hinge of the whole gospel.
Chapter 1-3, 4-16 hinged on this.

- **1-3 Sin** - The Diagnosis
- **4-16 Salvation** – The Cure

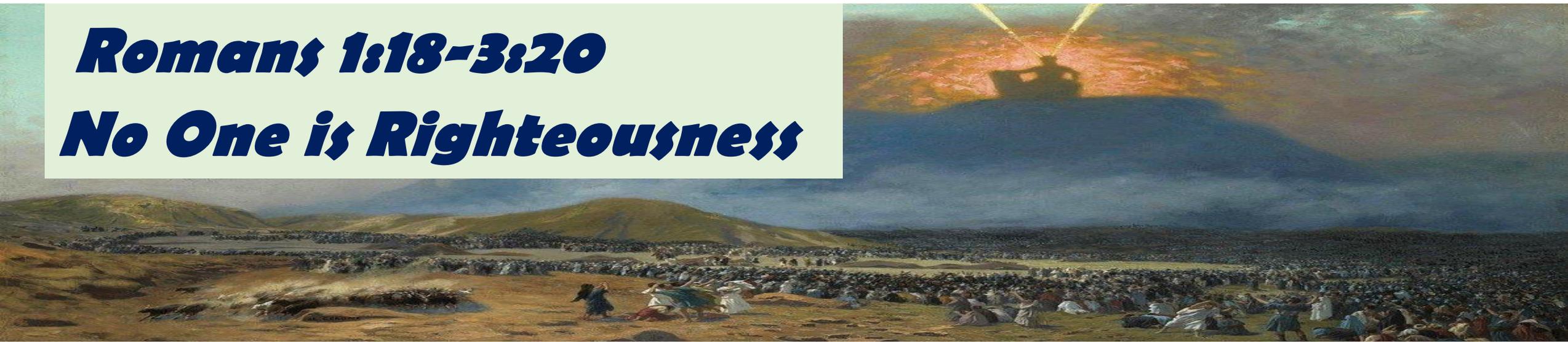


3:10-12 Universality of Sin

¹⁰ *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)*

¹² *All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” (Psalms 14:1-3; Ps 53:1-3)*

Romans 1:18-3:20
No One is Righteousness



Romans 3:21-31

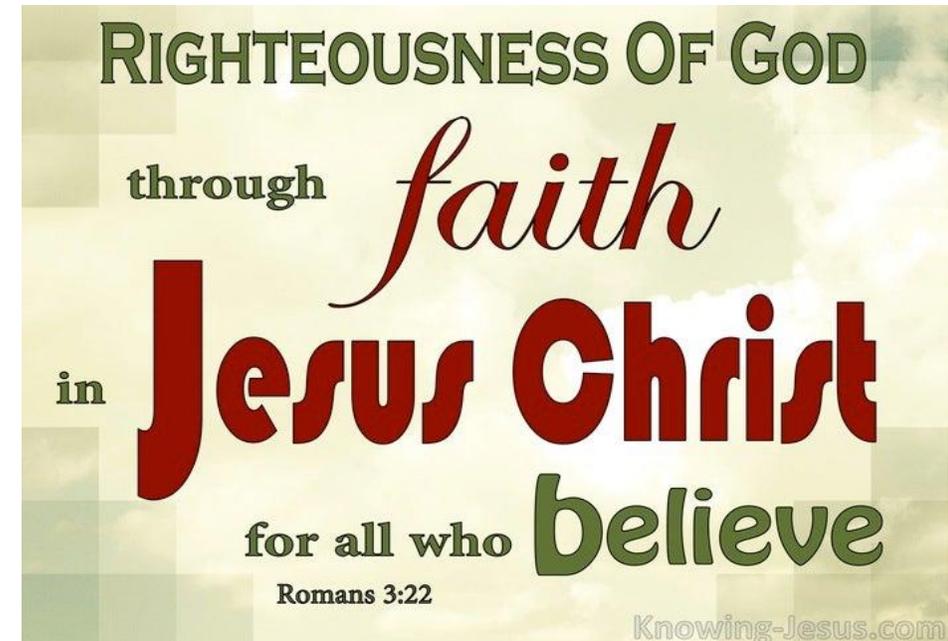
'BUT NOW' A Way Out

**There is a great hope
A great turning!**

Past vs. Present

*The past is the day of the law
when God is the Creator and Judge.*

*The present is the day of the gospel
when God is the Saviour.*



Romans 3:21-31

'But Now' The Way Out

God's Righteousness and Perfection Revealed

- V21-25a The Way of Salvation
- V25b-31 The Characteristics of Salvation

**JUSTIFICATION
BY FAITH
- ROMANS
3:21-31**



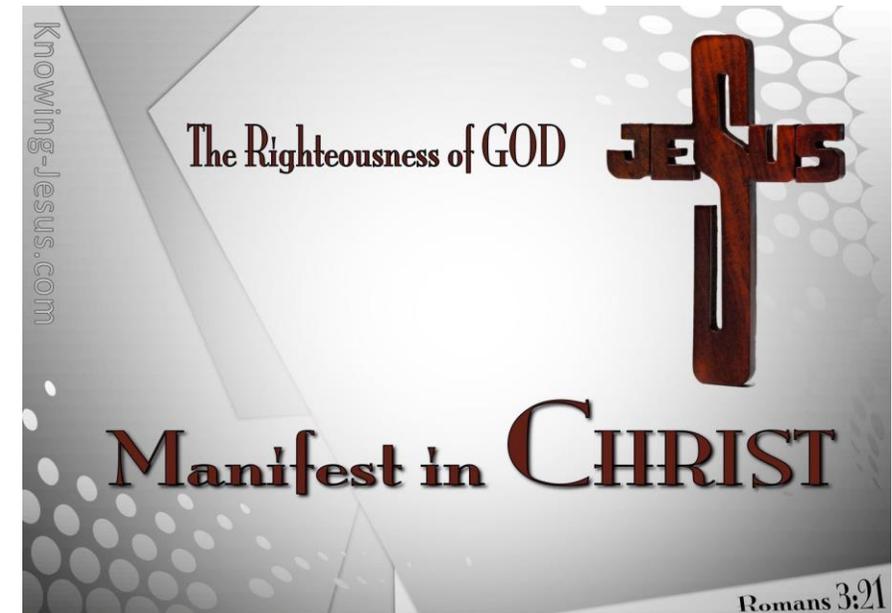
V21-25a

The Way of Salvation

God's Righteousness Revealed

A fresh revelation focusing on Christ and his cross

- V21 It is provided by God.
- V22a It comes to us by faith alone.
- V22b-23 It is for all, Jews or Gentiles.
- V24-25a It is entirely of God's grace through Christ's redeeming work.



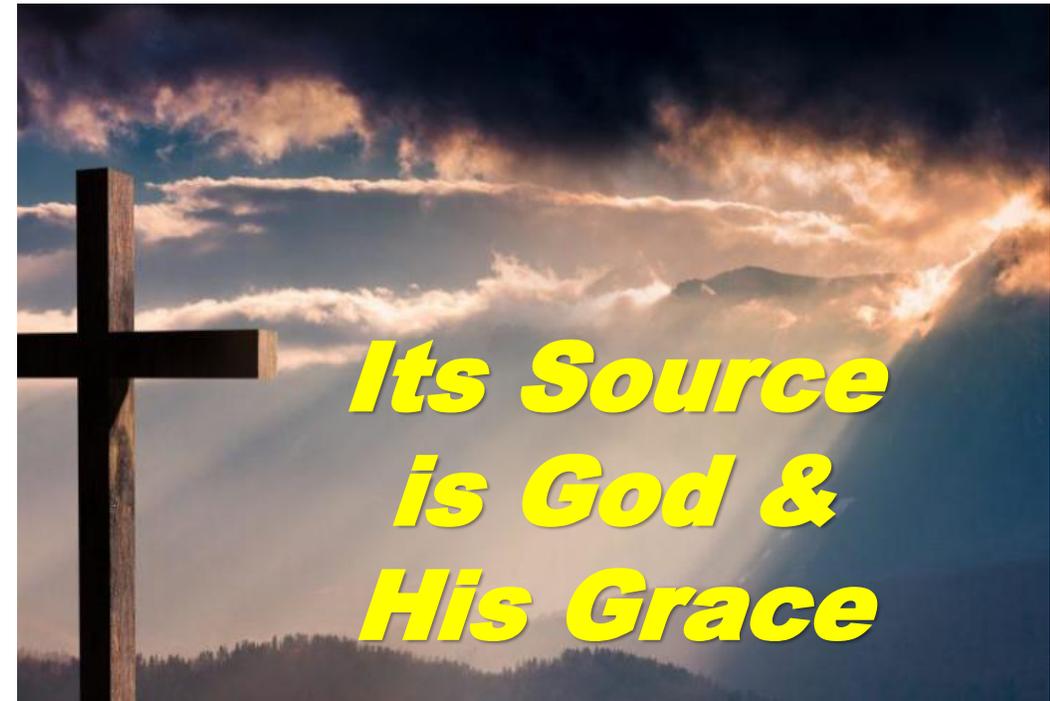
V21 'BUT NOW'

**God has provided a
righteousness for us**

***²¹ But now apart from the law
the righteousness of God has been
made known, to which the Law and
the Prophets testify.***

It is provided by God

***It is entirely God! He is the
planner, initiator of the gospel.***



***Its Source
is God &
His Grace***

Apart from the Law

Self-righteousness vs.

God's righteousness

Past - *A legal relationship*

Present - *A new love relationship*

Testified by Scripture

The NT is the OT fulfilled

***Planned before the foundation
and creation of the world***



It comes to us by faith alone

²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

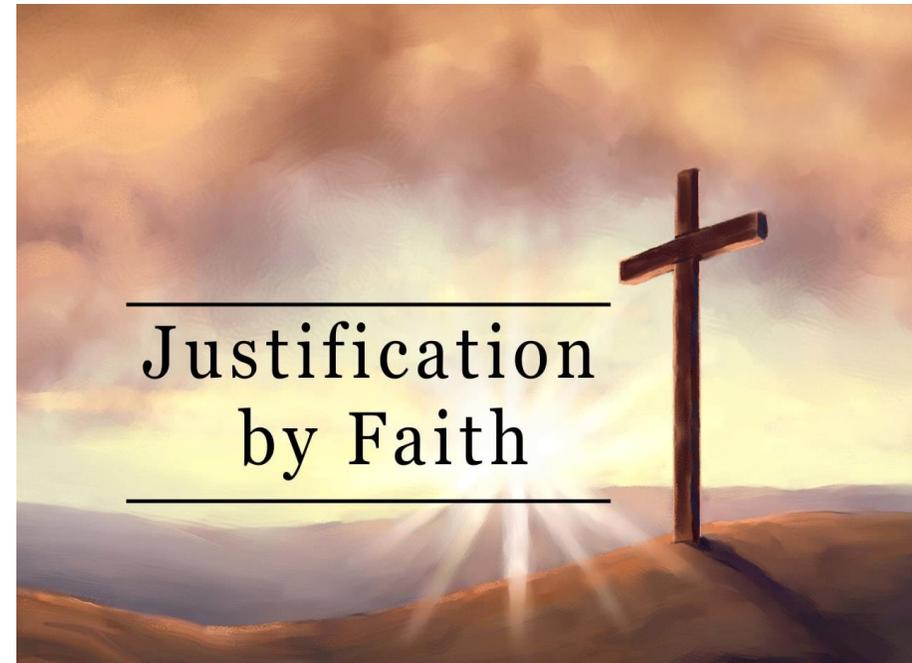
Believing vs. Behaving

Faith Not Work

It is for all who believe in Jesus

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

No difference to God who we are
Under law - *Everyone has sin*



But NOW Under Grace
Everyone can be saved!

***²⁴ and all are justified freely
by his grace through the redemption
that came by Christ Jesus.***

His Grace Given!
Christ has come!

***It is entirely of
God's grace***



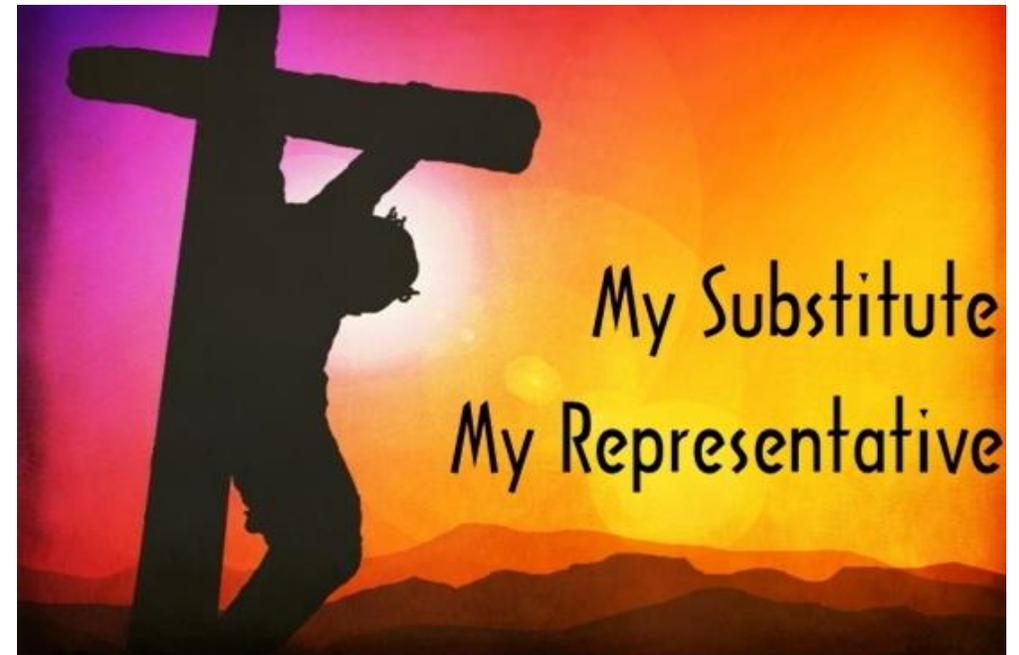
All are Justified,
Redeemed by His
Grace through Christ

Justification - Court Term

All are acquitted, declared not guilty,
bestowed righteous status.
Welcomed into fellowship.

Redemption - Market term

Pay for slave to set them free.
Pardon, forgiven of sin, penalty paid for,
deliverance from slavery to sin.

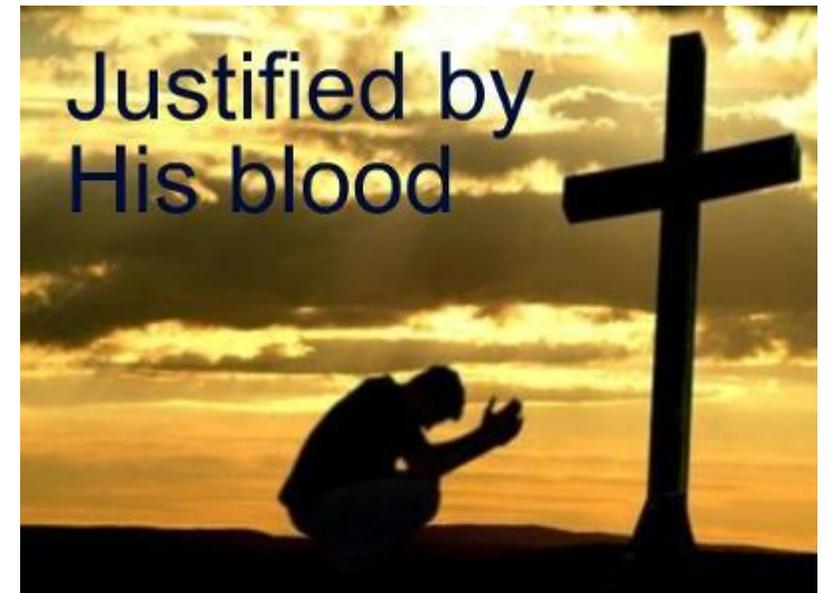


**Both came through the
Atonement of Christ
on the Cross**

*²⁵ God presented Christ
as a sacrifice of atonement,
through the shedding of his
blood—to be received by faith.*

Atonement, Greek ‘*hilasterion*’,

**Refers to atonement cover,
mercy seat in the holy of holies.**



Sacrifice of Atonement

(Temple term)

Atonement = At-one-ment,

At one with God, reconcile with God.

Propitiation

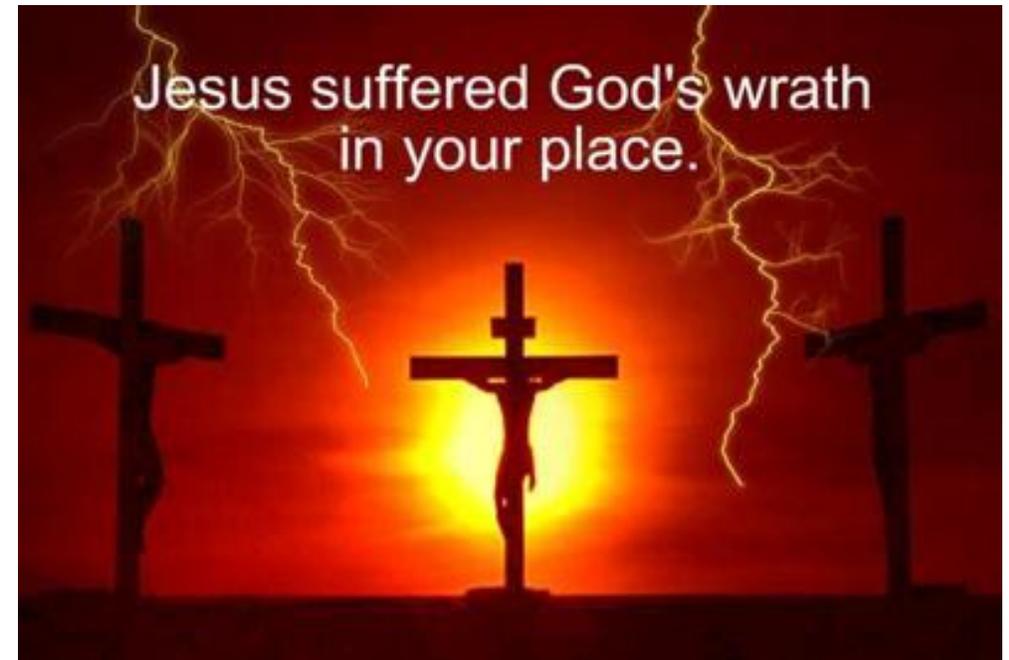
Appeasement of God's wrath.

Reveals God's Love.

Expiation

Wipe clean of sin and guilt.

Satisfies God's Justice.



What have we learned?

- **Past** - No one is righteous
- **Present** - '***BUT NOW***'

*The Righteousness of God
has been Revealed*

His Grace Given! Jesus Christ has come!

SALVATION
BY GRACE
THROUGH FAITH

Our Justification and Redemption

**Justification is by grace alone,
in Christ alone, through faith alone**

- *Its source is God and His grace*
- *Its ground is Christ and his cross*
- *Its means is faith alone apart from work*



Justified

We escape His wrath, receive His forgiveness, live in peace with Him

Stand against the enemies' accusation, condemnation.

He remembers our sin no more.

Face our failure, temptations.

We have second chance & be overcomers.



Jesus on the Cross



**Righteousness of
God Revealed** 
DONE

Pastor Xi Shengmo
Conqueror of Demons

At this time I still smoked opium. I tried to break it off by means of native medicine, but could not; by use of foreign medicine, but failed. At last I saw, in reading the New Testament, that there was a Holy Spirit who could help men. I prayed to God to give me His Holy Spirit. He did what man and medicine could not do; He enabled me to break off opium smoking. So, my friends, if you would break off opium, don't rely on medicine, don't lean on man, but trust to God.

Xi Zizhi 席子直

1836-1896



A large, glowing cross is the central focus, set against a dark, tunnel-like background. The cross is brightly lit, creating a strong contrast with the surrounding shadows. In the foreground, several silhouettes of people are walking away from the viewer towards the cross, their figures elongated by the perspective and the light. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and spiritual journey.

Romans
3:25b-31

***His Perfection
Revealed***

**The
Characteristics
of Salvation**