

A DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF THE LAW. Romans 3:19-20.

- ❖ What is the Law? The law is the *Torah* (the Pentateuch and, by extension, the Old Testament).
- ❖ What is the purpose of the law?
 - It reveals sin and man's guilt before God.
 - There is no way it can remove guilt or making us righteous before God.
 - It shows us the way to obtain forgiveness (for example: the sacrifice rites in the sanctuary).
 - It shows God's character.

B GOD'S JUSTICE. Romans 3:21-23. (see the chart in the next page)

- ❖ Only the righteous—those who obey the law perfectly—can be accepted by God's righteousness.
 - No one of us is righteous nor can become righteous.
- ❖ Jesus lived a righteous life. That life is accepted by God.
 - When a sinner accepts the sacrifice of Jesus by faith, God accepts Jesus' perfect life instead of the sinner's. Then, that sinner is declared righteous.

C JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE. Romans 3:24.

- ❖ We are justified when we are declared righteous before God.
- ❖ The way God has provided to declare us righteous is redemption through the death of Jesus.
- ❖ That declaration of righteousness has nothing to do with anything we could do; we don't deserve it. We receive it only by grace, as a gift from God.

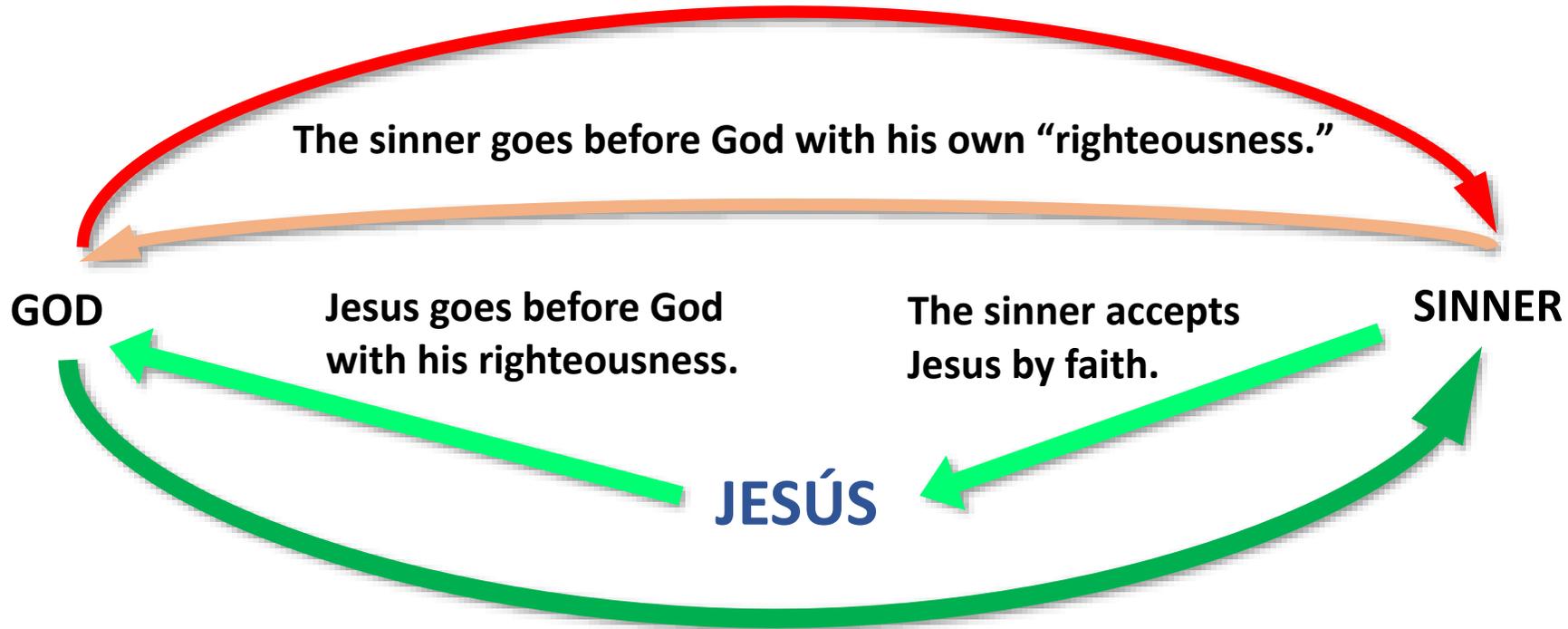
D PROPITIATION. Romans 3:25-27.

- ❖ Jesus comes between the sinner and God like that, so the divine righteousness is fulfilled and the sinner is accepted by his faith in Jesus.
- ❖ God is righteous, so that is the only way to fulfil divine righteousness and accept the sinner without breaking the law.

E JUSTIFIED BY FAITH. Romans 3:28.

- ❖ Deeds have nothing to do with justification, because we can't do anything to be justified.
- ❖ We can only be justified by faith in the expiatory sacrifice of Christ.
- ❖ Does justification by faith exempt us from keeping the law?
 - Certainly not; because if someone is forgiven, how could he keep sinning?

REJECTED: The sinner doesn't fulfil the righteousness that God demands (obeying the law).



ACCEPTED: The righteousness of Jesus is accepted instead of the sinner's.