

A wooden cross stands in a field of tall, dry grass. The sky is a mix of blue and grey, with a bright light source creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

**DYING  
FOR THE  
UNGODLY**



# ROMANS 3:21-26

21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 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; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



A wooden cross stands in the center of the image, set against a background of tall, dry grass and a cloudy sky. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

# **“PROPITIATION”**

**1 John 2:1-2**



**The Greeks believed the gods were naturally disinclined to be merciful or show good will. Thus, appeasement was necessary. They “propitiated” their gods. This is never how the word is used in the Bible, for nothing man can do can appease God. Only the vindication of His holiness can satisfy Him, and this is accomplished in the loving sacrifice of Christ (1 John 4:10).**



# ROMANS 5:1-2

- “Justified” – Has the sense of something being lined up.
- “We have peace” – In a sense, we are the proof of the gospel’s power. Because we are reconciled to God, we have a kind of peace that is unmatched and unobtainable outside of Him (John 16:33, 14:6). If we fail to embrace this peace we become a stumbling block to others seeking it.
- Some go through life constantly worried, anxious about salvation. “I won’t know if I’m saved until I get there.” Really? What about 2 Timothy 1:12 or Romans 8:31ff?



It is not "faith" and "obedience" being contrasted in Romans, but "faith in Jesus Christ as the means to salvation" (Rom. 1:1-6) and "Justification by Works of the Law of Moses" (Romans 3:20, 28). One can neither earn grace nor disobey his way into it!

# "BY FAITH"

Is faith the only component in this process? See Col. 2:10-13, 1 Cor. 6:11, Rom. 5:9, 2 Cor. 5:7



# ROMANS 5:3-5

- A condition of “blessedness” can be found in every circumstance, whether we deem it good or bad in physical terms. The Beatitudes should immediately dispel any notion of physical condition being linked to spiritual well-being (Philippians 4:11-12).
- One could say that the greatest “blessings” are those conditions that bring us closer to God and godliness. #godisgood or #feelingblessed should take on new meaning!





**"WHILE WE WERE STILL HELPLESS...  
CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY"**

**Romans 5:6**



# ROMANS 5:6-8

- “At the right time” – Things happened according to a plan that was set in motion from the very beginning (Acts 2:22-24, 4:28, 1 Peter 1:20).
- “A righteous man... the good man” – The former is technically good, right in his dealings, but may not stir any emotional connection. The latter man is more moving, “the” good man who you know personally.
- Unfortunately for us, we are neither in God’s impartial, perfect judgment (Romans 3:9-18).



# ROMANS 5:9-11

- **“Saved from the wrath of God”** – In all this talk of love and mercy, God’s vengeance looms in the background. It is real, it will happen, and it will be terrible. The encouraging message, however, is that nobody has to endure it for lack of effort on God’s part (Romans 8:1-2).
- **If Christ was willing to die for His enemies, how much more will He live to make intercession for His friends. This is why the terms “Advocate” and “propitiation” are so close to each other in 1 John 2:1-2. One makes the way for salvation, and the other continually stands to defend it.**





# **“RECONCILIATION”**

**Isn't that what we all seek?  
Communion with the divine?**