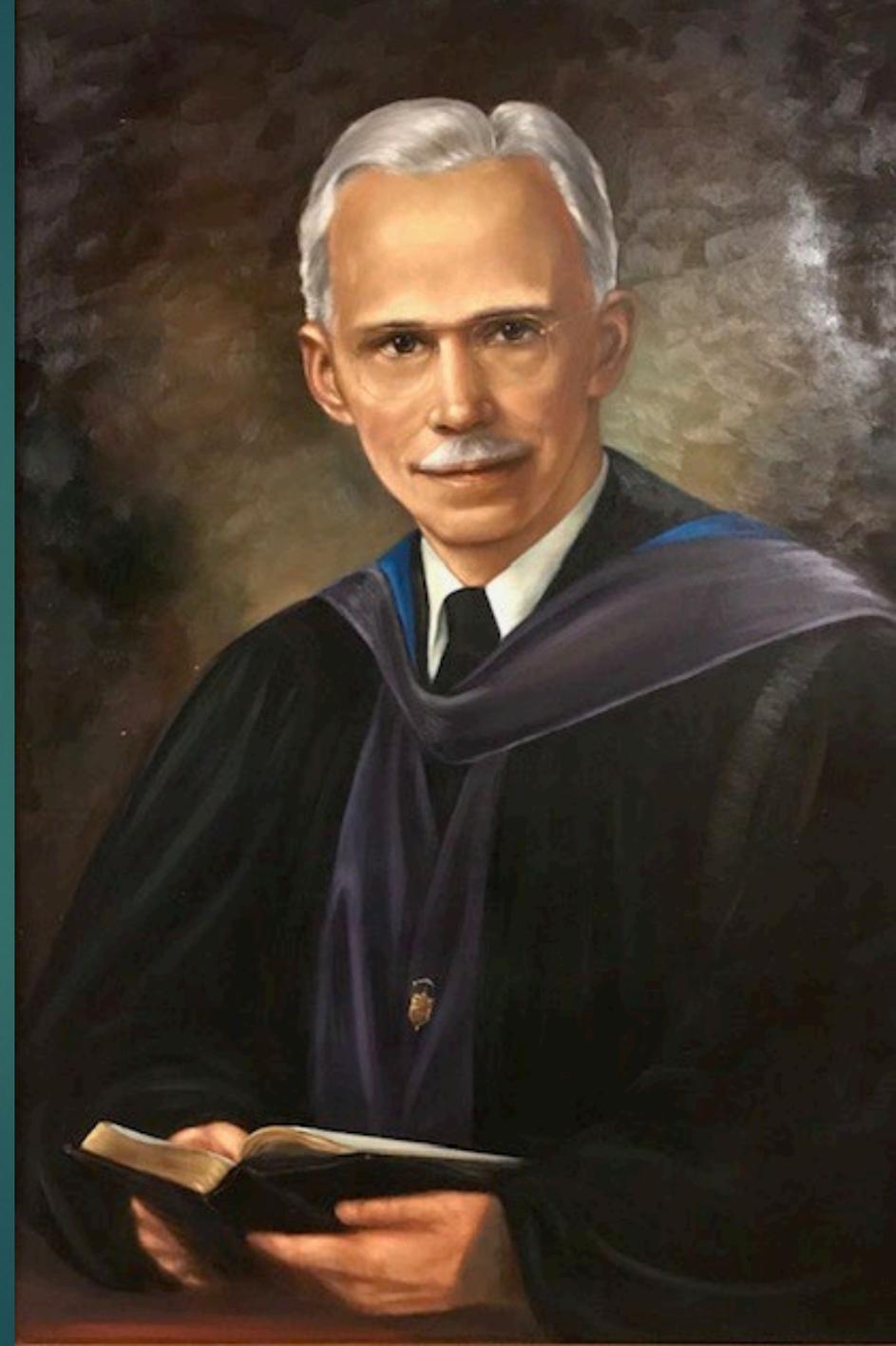




Romans 3:19–31

The Courtroom of God

This section is the very heart of the book of Romans. For this reason, all Christians ought to memorize verses 21-26. If someone should ask me, “Brother McClain, if you could have just six verses out of the Bible, and all the rest be taken away, which would you take?”, I would select these six verses. All of God’s gospel (Good News) is there, and in a way found nowhere else in the Word of God. [*The Gospel of God's Grace*]
Alva J. McClain (1888 – 1968)



Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21 ¶ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

But, in fact, a righteousness **from God** apart from the law had been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, [JFM]

The word “righteousness” is used with three distinct meanings in the New Testament

- (1) God Himself is said to be righteous (Rom 3:25, 26); this is God’s character.
- (2) Self-righteousness, expressed by Paul as “my own righteousness” (Phil 3:9), “Their own righteousness” (Rom 10:2). This is relative human righteousness.
- (3) The righteousness of God which is said to be imputed to the one who believes: “A righteousness from God which is to all and on all who believe” (Rom. 3:22).



In Rom 3:21 Paul is referring to that righteousness of God which is imputed to the person who puts his faith in Christ for salvation. So, this can be translated “a righteousness from God.” It is not describing the character of God, but the righteousness which He gives as a free gift to all who believe.



Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Philippians 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, **the righteousness which is from God** by faith;

Romans 3:22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;





Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

have sinned = aorist act indicative. Same phrase as Rom 5:12 = all sinned.

Fall short = present passive indicative = are falling short (continuing action).

Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His
grace through the redemption that is in Christ
Jesus

Simul iustus et peccator

Luther described this state as being “simultaneously justified and sinful at the same time.”