



**Dear Crossroads Family,**

This coming Sunday we will be continuing our series entitled “Seeing God Clearly.” We have already looked at two aspects of God’s nature, that He is Holy and He is Love. This week’s service will focus our eyes on God as a just God. The text for the Bible study and sermon is Psalm 7, but we will be reading together Romans 3:21-26. These 6 verses, possibly more than any other passage in the Bible, explain the way salvation through faith in Jesus works in God’s eternal plan. But to fully appreciate the text, we need a little background.

Inside the Old Testament Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies, a designated space that contained the Ark of the Covenant. Inside the Ark were the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments which served as a constant accusation against the people because of their tendency to sin and thus be unfaithful to their covenant with God.

On top of the ark was a cover, or lid called the Mercy Seat. Though the Mercy Seat is sometimes called the “Throne of God,” there was no chair-like structure there. It was simply a cover with two winged, gold cherubim (cherubs) on each side looking toward the space in the middle. The English term "Mercy Seat" was popularized by William Tyndale in his 16th-century Bible translation. He chose "seat" to translate the Hebrew word for cover: *kapporet*. He wanted to convey that this was the "place" where God’s mercy was seated and dispensed, even though no physical chair existed.

Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only on the Day of Atonement. On that day, the High Priest sprinkled blood from a sacrifice on the cover. The blood on the cover came between the holy presence of God (hovering above the Ark) and the broken Law inside the Ark. God didn’t ignore the broken law; He chose to look at it through the lens of a sacrifice.

Paul used the Greek version of that Hebrew word for “cover of the Ark” in Romans 3:25 to describe Jesus (translated in the NIV with the words "atoning sacrifice"). Jesus is the cover where atonement for sins can take place. But in Jesus, God Himself became the sacrifice as well. As in the Old Testament, God doesn’t ignore our sin either; He looks at it through the lens of the blood of a sacrifice sprinkled on the cover designated as the place of atonement. So, as Paul said in Romans 3:26, He became both the Just One (demanding payment for sins committed) and the Justifier (the one who makes the payment for sins committed) of those who have faith in Jesus.

Oh, how He loves you and me!

See you Sunday.

Love,  
Bro. Doug

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## **A Few Announcements:**

**Women of Prayer Potluck Picnic Luncheon** will be Monday, March 16, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring something you might take on a picnic to share with the group. The guest speaker will be Carol Fisher, speaking on "God's Peace in a Broken World." Please RSVP to Gail Anderson (210.863.5254).

**Crossroads Card & Crafting Ministry** will be meeting this week on Tuesday, March 17, from 12:00-2:00 pm. Come and be a part of this fun and important outreach ministry!

**Crossroads Happy Hikers:** This is a new walking group at Crossroads that meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 am at O.P. Schnabel Park off Bandera & Braun at Pavilion #1. All are invited to join in the adventure. Walk at your own pace and bring a sack lunch, if you like. The group eats at the pavilion after the walk. Hope to see you there!

**Youth Burger Sale Fundraiser:** Sunday, March 29, immediately following the Worship Service, the Youth will be serving a Hamburger or Hot Dog lunch to raise funds to help cover the cost of Youth Camp. The lunch will be \$6 for a Hamburger or Hot Dog & chips. Drinks will be available for \$1-2. You can pick up or dine in. Tickets will be on sale beginning today in the foyer.

**Crossroads VBS 2026: Illumination Station** is coming soon! Mark your calendar for June 15-19, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. All children who have completed PK to 6th grade can take part in VBS this summer. Register now at [cbcsa.net/vbs](http://cbcsa.net/vbs).

**Join in VBS Fun! Illumination Station Kickoff & Training** will be Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Find your VBS Team! Enjoy VBS Snacks! Be encouraged and energized to make this VBS fabulous! RSVP to Chelsay Long, VBS Director (703.814.2990) or Katy Padgett, Children's Director (757.660.4669).

***Dr. Doug Diehl***  
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