

Before Paul answers this, he again refers to the fact that all human beings are sinners- they all have sinned (transgressed God's standard of righteousness, His Law) and all continue to sin (fall short of God's standard of righteousness, His Law, which reflects His attribute of righteousness, which in turn is one aspect of the magnificence of the splendor of his nature- His glory).

And yet in Romans 3:24 "and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Paul states that these very sinners, these unrighteous human beings are the very ones whom God in His great grace declares righteous through Christ's redemption. (to be justified means to be declared righteous; thus when you read "justified freely by His grace" simply read it "declared righteous freely by His grace").

Think of it! GOD DECLARES RIGHTEOUS THE UNRIGHTEOUS!

But someone may say, " How can God do this? Isn't that a contradiction, to say that someone is righteous when he isn't?" And someone else may respond "What do you mean, "How can God do this?" God is God! God is sovereign! God can do anything that He pleases, anything that accords with His good pleasure!

At this point we step into this exchange and point out that Scripture clearly states that God cannot deny Himself (II Timothy 2:13), that one of God's attributes is truth, and that therefore God cannot contradict Himself, i.e. cannot say something is so when He says it isn't' so! If God say an unrighteous human being is righteous, there must be some other explanation than simply saying that God can do anything that He pleases!

If God declares an unrighteous human being righteous, there must be some sort of basis for this declaration; and since it does not lie in the righteousness of that human being, it must lie elsewhere!