

## **The Performance Trap**

Romans 3:21-24 (1723)

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### **I. The lie that is so American it is rarely even questioned**

#### **a. The performance trap**

*The performance trap: I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself*

Luke 11:46 NLT *“Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.*

#### **b. The ultimate result of this lie—I live my life fearing failure**

### **II. So how do I find freedom from this lie that haunts me?**

#### **a. Further lies can never free us from the lies we believe**

Colossians 2:8 NLT <sup>8</sup> *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*

#### **b. Only truth—God’s truth—can break the power of Satan’s lies**

John 8:32 NLT *...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

Romans 3:21-24 NLT <sup>21</sup> *But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.* <sup>22</sup> *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.* <sup>23</sup> *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.* <sup>24</sup> *Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*

v. 24 NIV *all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Justification *the legal and formal acquittal from guilt by God as Judge, the pronouncement of the sinner as righteous who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. In verse 24 it is in the present*

2 (1723a notes)

*continuous tense, indicating the constant process of justification in the succession of those who believe and are justified. (Vines)*

*God has shown me how to rest in right relationship with him, and it has absolutely nothing to do with my performance! I am right with God, and therefore with myself, because I have placed my faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for you too if you are trusting in him. Ultimately we all perform poorly compared to God. Yet in his grace I am right in his sight and I no longer have to fear failure—Jesus took the heat for my pitiful performance!*

Romans 5:1 NIV *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*