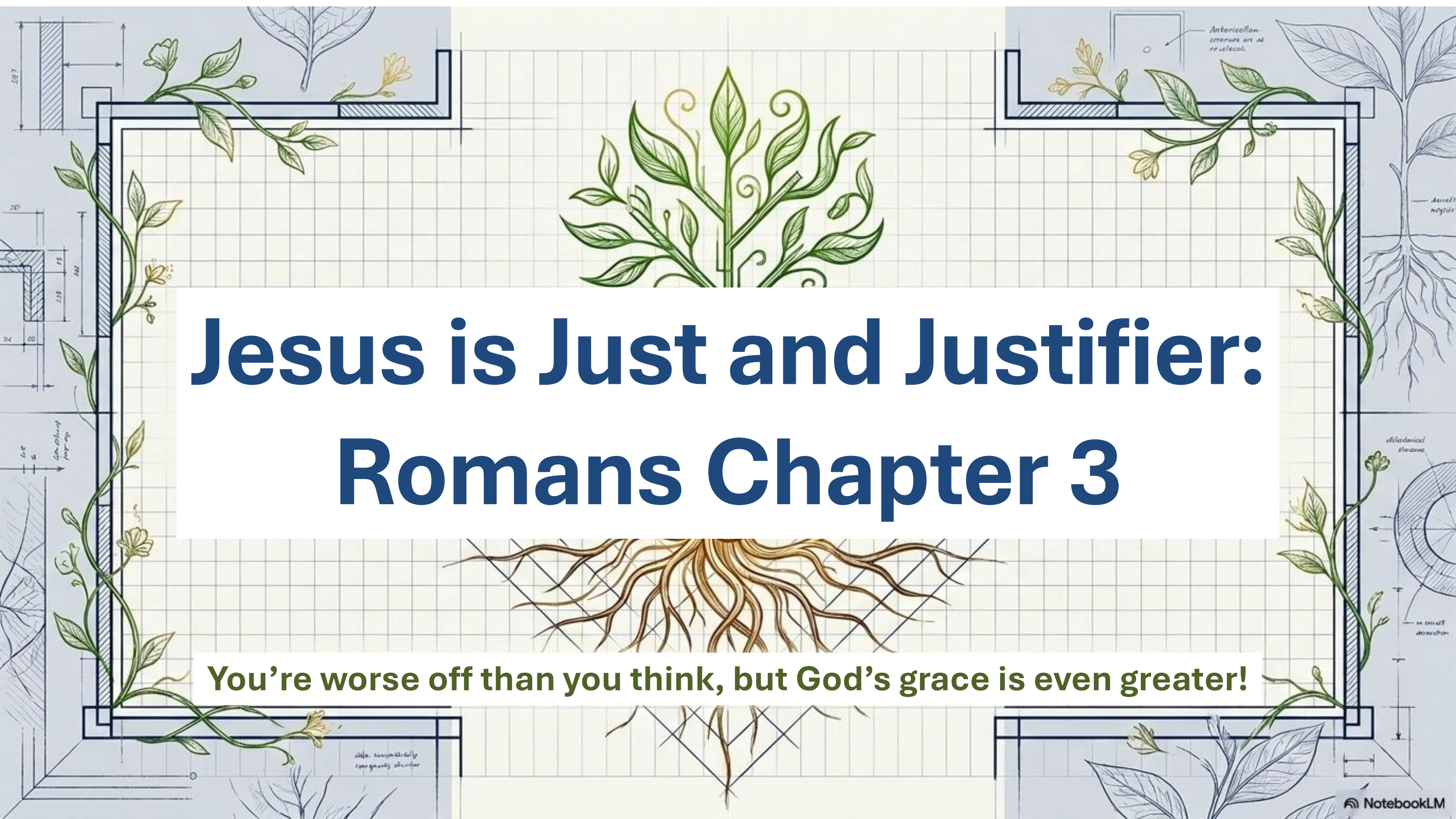


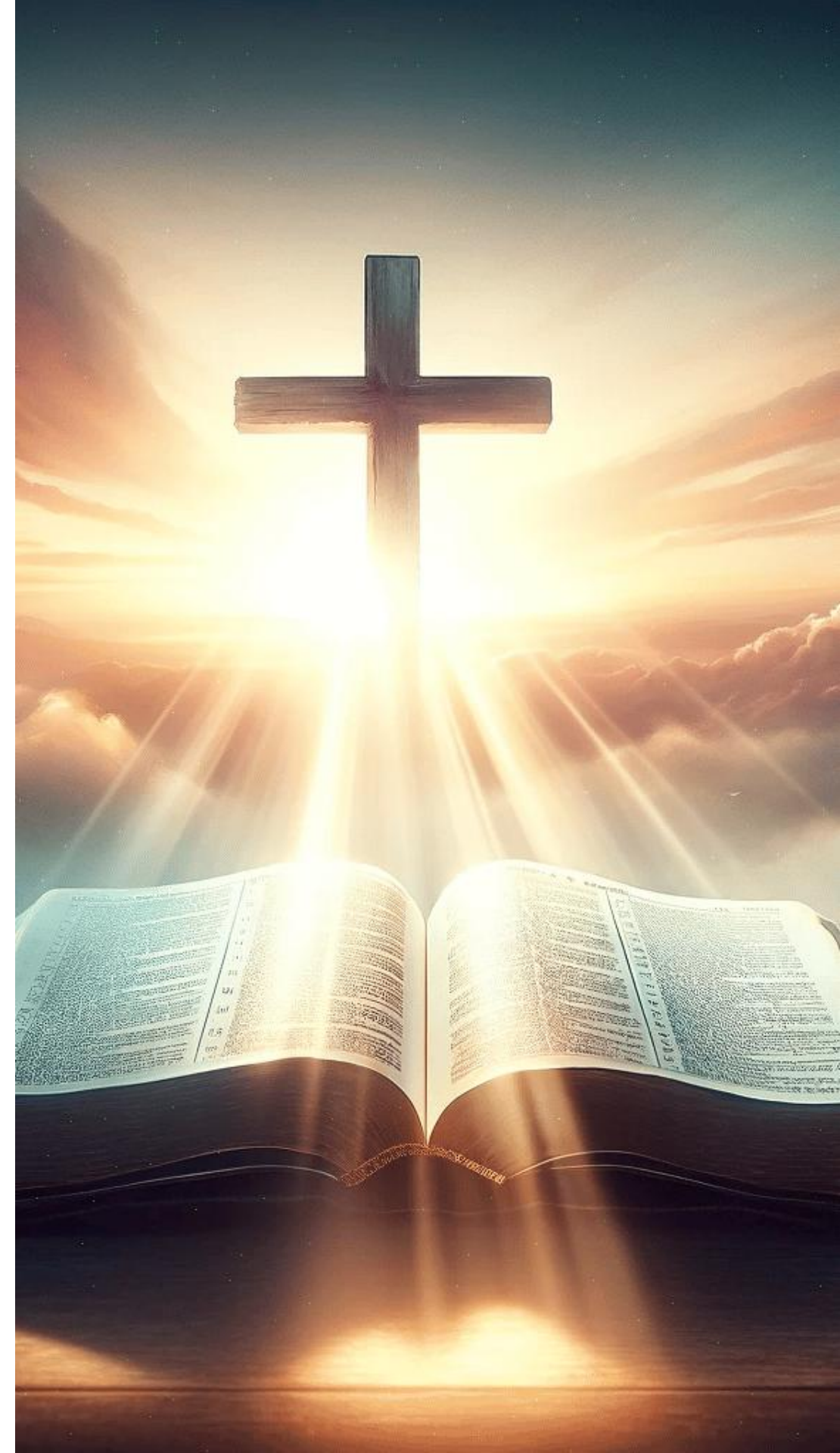


Jesus is Just and Justifier: Romans Chapter 3

You're worse off than you think, but God's grace is even greater!

Bottom Line Up Front

- The Law is good. But it can only point out our sin, it cannot remove our sin.
- You are more sinful than you ever realized, the bad news is really bad!
- The Good News is better than you could imagine. Jesus has done everything so that we can be reconciled to himself, freely, by grace.



1. Is God Unrighteous?

- Was there no advantage to being a part of the Old Covenant?
- If our sin makes God look good, why am I condemned?
- Why not do evil that good may come?

Rom 3:4 By no means! **Let God be true though every one were a liar**, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.”

2. The bad news is really bad!

Rom 3:9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

2. The bad news is really bad!

Rom 3:13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

The “Good Person” Myth

Have you ever been guilty of:

- Not seeking God
- Going your own way
- Telling lies, or spreading bitterness
- Living without the fear of God?

God’s Objective Standard

Rom 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3. **The Good News is better than you could imagine!**

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given **through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and **all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**. 25 God presented Christ as a **sacrifice of atonement**, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be **just and the one who justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.

What is faith and belief?

Rom 3:22 This righteousness is given **through faith** in Jesus Christ **to all who believe**. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

What do we believe? – Jesus is God, come in the flesh

John 17:20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

What do we believe? – Jesus died for our sins and rose again

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

What do we believe? – Jesus is the judge of the world

Acts 17:30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Formula of Faith

Righteousness is given to all who believe.
But what does belief actually require?



DIM. REV. A

DIM. REV. A

SCALE 1:1

The Vocabulary of Grace



Redemption

To release upon payment of
a ransom.

We were trapped, and Christ
purchased our freedom.



Justification

Declared righteous.
"Just-as-if-I'd never sinned."

Given freely by His grace;
none of it can be earned.

DIM. REV. A

DIM. REV. A

SCALE 1:1

Propitiation – A Sacrifice of Atonement

Rom 3:25a God presented Christ as a **sacrifice of atonement**, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

Rom 3:25a whom God put forward as a **propitiation by his blood**, to be received by faith.

hilastērion – propitiation, the mercy seat

Jesus is the Presence at the Altar...

Heb 9:3-5 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory **overshadowing the mercy seat**. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

...and the High Priest who shed His own Blood

Heb 9:11-12 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but **by means of his own blood**, thus securing an eternal redemption.

He is Just and Justifier

Rom 3:25b He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, **so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.**

'But Now...' — The Dawn of Grace

Romans 3:21 marks the greatest pivot in history: Apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been made known.

Track 1

God's prophecy with Israel is complete.

Track 2

A shared global language (Greek) unites cultures.

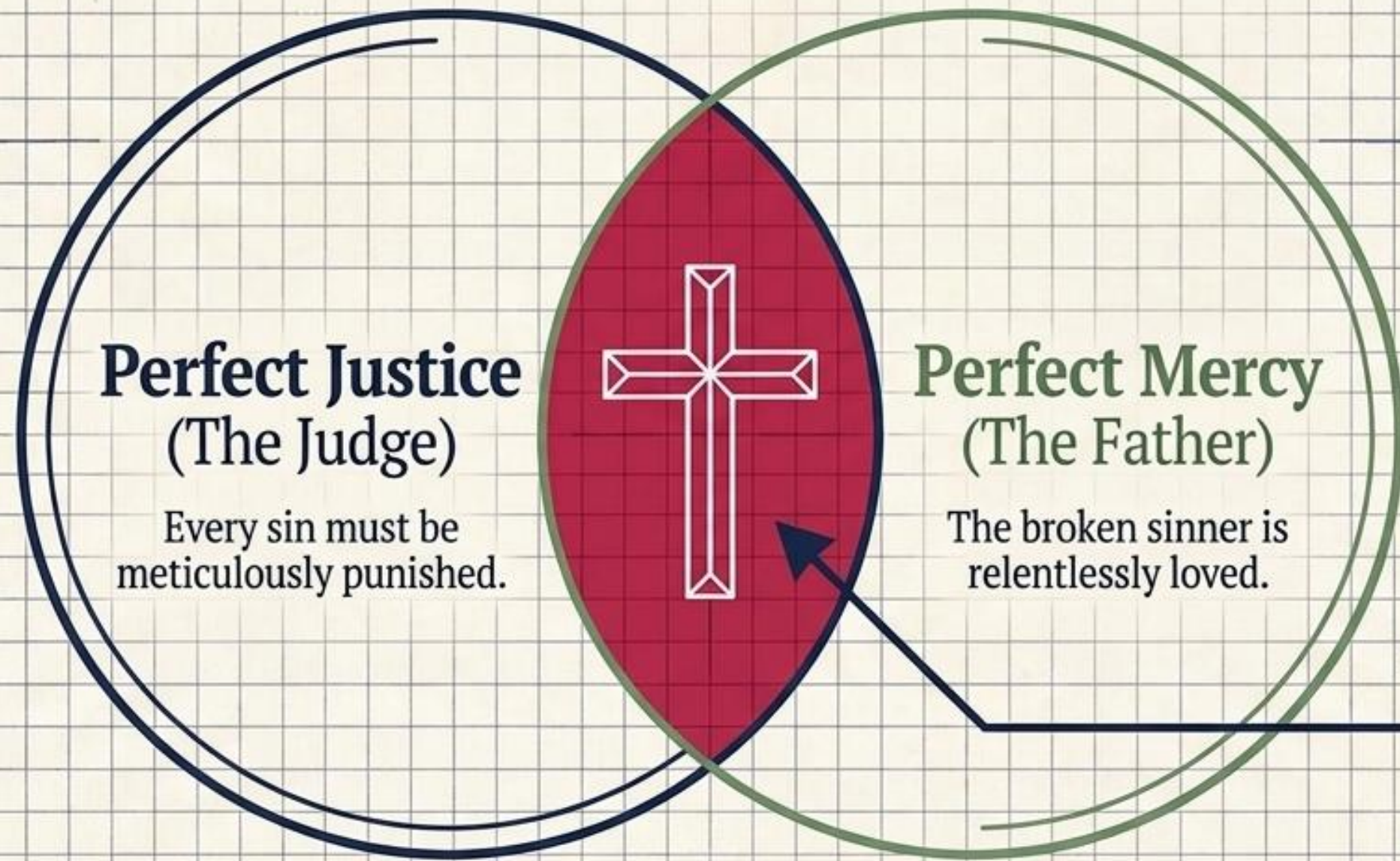
Track 3

The Roman Empire builds roads connecting the known world.

The Fullness of Time
(Galatians 4:4)

Gal 4:4-6 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

The cross perfectly satisfies both unyielding justice and radical mercy.



At the cross, Jesus absorbs the full weight of the justice so God can freely dispense the justification. He is both the righteous Judge and the one who pays the fine.

Boasting is Excluded

Rom 3:27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Application

1. Do you have an honest assessment of how bad off you really are apart from Christ?
2. Do you ever struggle with feeling accepted by God?
3. Do you struggle with thinking you are better than everyone else?
4. Do you ever question if God loves YOU?