

## No Reason to Brag

Romans 3:27-31 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. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

### ❖ Introduction

#### ➤ If you remember...

- Romans ch. 3... and mainly the parts we have studied most recently...
- Have been considered the climax of the Bible...
- Considered the highest point or the acropolis of the Bible.

#### ➤ God's plan in history has been completed

- And Romans 3:23-26 give us a deep and behind the scenes look at what God has accomplished
- Plus... how He has accomplished this...
- And we are able to see... how this affects us... or can affect us...

#### ➤ So... let's look back at this

### ❖ Review... Very Important

➤ Romans 3:23-26 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

#### ▪ Notice just a few things...

- Men have sinned against God and therefore guilty before Him
- God is able to legally declare them right with Him
- Based off of the work of Jesus... where He put Himself forward...
- As an offering of appeasement...
- So Jesus is punished for this sins of all men...
- **This makes God just for punishing sins**
  - ◆ But also... He is the one that can make many people righteous..
  - ◆ Since Jesus himself bore the punishment for others...
  - ◆ God does not ignore sin... rather... He moves the punishment from the believing sinner
    - To Jesus Christ His Son

### ❖ Outline: Today... I have 4 main points

- 1) Boasting is Excluded
- 2) We are Justified by Faith Alone
- 3) One God For All People
- 4) Faith Upholds the Law
- But... before we get to point one...
  - We are reminded of something

### ❖ Transition: Then...

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### ❖ 1) Boasting is Excluded

- 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.
- The First thing in this text we see... is Paul asking the question:
  - Then what becomes of our boasting?
    - His answer... it is excluded... it is left out...
      - ◆ The word means
- Why do you think Paul needed to make this point?
  - Why did he need to ask this question, and then answer that boasting is to be excluded?
- Boasting is what we do... Because pride is embedded deep into our hearts...
  - Pride is a problem for all men...
- Why is there no room for boasting?
- How do We Boast?
- *John Macarthur: The greatest lie in the world, and the lie common to all false religions and cults, is that, by certain works of their own doing, men are able to make themselves acceptable to God. The greatest error in that belief is its sheer impossibility. But the greatest evil of that belief is that it robs God of His glory.*
- *Calvin: Besides, since by faith glorying in works is so taken away, that faith cannot be truly preached, without wholly depriving man of all praise by ascribing all to God's mercy — it follows, that we are assisted by no works in obtaining righteousness.*
- What does it mean for us... that we have no room to boast?
- By Works? There is no work or series of works, or universality of works that justifies

## ❖ 2) We Are Justified by Faith Alone

- <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.
- Justification by Faith
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- Calvin: What, James says, that man is not justified by faith alone, but also by works, does not at all militate against the preceding view. The reconciling of the two views depends chiefly on the drift of the argument pursued by James. For the question with him is not, how men attain righteousness before God, but how they prove to others that they are justified, for his object was to confute hypocrites, who vainly boasted that they had faith. Gross then is the sophistry, not to admit that the word, to justify, is taken in a different sense by James, from that in which it is used by Paul; for they handle different subjects. The word, faith, is also no doubt capable of various meanings. These two things must be taken to the account, before a correct judgment can be formed on the point. We may learn from the context, that James meant no more than that man is not made or proved to be just by a feigned or dead faith, and that he must prove his righteousness by his works.

## ❖ 3) One God For All People

- <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith
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## ❖ 4) Law of Faith Upholds the Law

- <sup>31</sup> Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.
- “Justification by Faith”
- “I came not to undo, but to fulfill the law.” (Matthew 5:17.)
- To Answer... We must ask the question: What does the law require?
  - 1) Perfection
  - If there is no perfection... payment is required

- 2) Payment of Penalty
  - 3) To Drive us to Christ: Law was meant to lead people to Christ by showing their iniquity
  - 4) Prepares our hearts to begin keeping the law
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❖ Invitation

Upholding the law by faith

Does not mean that because of faith we are now able to live the law

Jesus came to fulfill the law...

Jesus fulfillment is how it is established... our faith in Jesus and what Jesus did is how we uphold the law

Confirms our helplessness

Upholds the law by Jesus being the high priest that went into the most holy place

Jesus fulfills the law by being sacrificed...

Jesus is the establishment of the law

The law is spiritual... love the Lord with all my...

Faith creates in me a desire to love the law of God and to keep it

Examples of subtle ways of bragging?