

The Righteousness of God

Romans 3:20~28, part 3 of 4

Read 3:20~28...

Story... a young man who had just gotten his driver's license, and asked his rather strict & devout father, to borrow the family car. "I'll make a deal with you," his father said. "Bring up your grades, read the Bible a bit more, get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." A month later, the son asked again. "Son, I'm proud of the way you've brought up your grades, and studied your bible... But you didn't cut your hair." The son smiled and replied, "I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair. Moses and Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair..."

The father thought, shaking his head, "You know, your right...and they walked everywhere they went!"

There's a good lesson in that story... That young man came up with several "good reasons" that he felt would "justify" him before his father... Only to realize too late, that he was not justified in his actions, and would pay the consequences of them!

Now, it's one thing to be denied use of the family car...but quiet another to be "**denied entrance**" into heaven!

There's a really good principle we can learn from this story... Listen to what the Father says...

Having said that, we find here in Romans 3:20~28, what "The Father says about Justification..." God has set apart this section of the bible, to make clear to all men, how men and woman are justified.

Five times in this passage, Paul uses this word "Just" in some form...(vs. 20, 24, 26, 28...)

Four times in the passage, he uses the word "Righteousness"...which has at its root the same word as "Just". The two words are synonymous...

So a total of Nine times in this passage...Paul makes a reference to "those who are right with God..." The **JUST!**

Like the young man in "that story..." we too are often "guilty" of doing the same thing..."Justifying our actions." That's why I don't have to explain the punch line... That's why we laugh at such stories...because we so identify with it.



Like that young man...

We have an answer for "everything we do"...(things we **KNOW** we **should NOT DO!**)

We have an answer for "what we do not do"...(things we **KNOW** we **SHOULD BE** doing!)

You can justify anything you want to...ANYTHING!

And if you try hard enough, you can even find scripture to support it!

But that brings up a question...

Though we "Justify Our Actions," but does that make us JUSTIFIED?

This morning, I want to look how it is that a man is "Justified before God" according to the scripture!

And to do so, I don't want to talk about, what we do, what we don't do... How we act, and we don't act... I don't want to discuss what you see as wrong, what I see as wrong...

Because “*True Justification*” doesn't have anything to do with our actions!
The scriptures teach, that we are *justified* by the **GRACE** of God...

(Vs 24) ²⁴ *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

“*True Justification*” doesn't have anything to do with our actions!

Having said that, I want to make it clear... I'm not saying that what we do, and don't do is unimportant. In no way am I saying that our “*obedience*” to God doesn't matter. I'm not saying that all...

For they Do MATTER... Obedience is one of the “*Characteristics*” of genuine conversion! A subject matter that Paul takes up latter in Romans, starting somewhere around chapter 6... To which he spends the rest of the epistle speaking to the “*Living Out*” of the salvation that God has placed in us! Romans 6~End Paul defines the meaning of what it means, “*to live by faith*”... “The Just shall live by faith...”

But before he does that...from chapter 1~5, he defines what it means to be JUST...

“*Man's Justification before God*” has **NOTHING** to do with our **DEEDS!**

When it comes to our “*justification before God...*” whether our deeds are Good or Bad have absolutely no influencing factor!

Whether a man be a “*Heathen*” or a “*Saint*”, as far as his actions, his deeds go, makes no difference at all when it comes to “*justification before God...*” For that is the very essence of what Paul says in verse 23.

...for there is no difference: ²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Paul is stating that there was “*no distinction*”, no difference between the “*Gentile*” who had no dealings with the law...or the “*Jews*” who adhered to the law!

Both were equally sinful, both were equally guilty before God!

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In spite of the Jews *dedication* to the Law of God, in spite of their diligent attempts to please God...

They are no closer than the Gentiles who try not at all!

Even though “*outwardly*”...they appear to be!

Man's obedience to this word, his efforts to please God by his service, have absolutely no impact on his being justified before God. He is none the better than those who want nothing to do with it...

...for there is no difference: ²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

According to the scriptures, we are... ²⁴ *justified freely by his grace...*

Paul declares...**It is only “*Out of the Goodness*” of God's heart...that anyone can stand “*JUST*” before God!**

God is SO GOOD...

A **grace** that has often been miss-understood... Many have the understanding that being a God of Grace, in that He “*Overlooks*” our sin! That our sin really doesn't matter!

God forbid... The “*Grace*” the bible speaks of, declares just the opposite.....

Grace is the very opposite of “*God overlooking mans sin!*”

Grace is... “*God’s way of dealing with man’s sin...*”

(Vs 25) **Man’s Sin caused God to...** ²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath “*set forth HIS SON to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*”

FAR from “*Overlooking*” man’s sin...

Our sin caused God to “*Set forth*” His own Son...

Our sin caused God to “*Humiliate*” His Son, by sending Him to earth and take on the form of a man...

Our sin caused God to “*Suffer*” in watching His Son, being murdered by MERE MEN!

I’m afraid some have the wrong idea of “*The God of Grace...*” God’s not up in heaven, looking down on man this morning, thinking... Boy I sure wish they’d serve me... Excuse me, can you help me... I wished you wouldn’t do that... Ah, I forgive you...as if our disobedience is no big deal...

God Killed His own Son...to make us Right With Him!

Illustration...Abraham & Isaac...

For any to “*hear of God’s Grace*”...how He “sent forth” his son, for our sins! And not have a broken heart, and repent and turn to Christ...THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THAT MAN! He’s calloused...

When Paul says we are...²⁴ *justified freely by his grace...* he is not saying that it is a “*Free Gift*” in any sense of the word...But rather, “*freely*” is a reference that a man cannot be “*justified*” before God *by anything he does!*

“*freely justified*” means there’s nothing we can DO to “*EARN*” **justification!**

We are “*hopelessly*” and “*helplessly*” in bondage to sin... There’s no way out! Regardless of what we do or don’t do, no matter how hard we try...we can’t escape!

BUT... **God is SO GOOD!**

So Righteous...that he saw our need, and out of the “*Goodness of His heart,*” offered up his son for us all!

Are you “*Justified*” before God?

I want to leave you with a story from the bible...

Luke 14...**Excuses**...¹⁵And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. ¹⁶Then said he unto him, **A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:** ¹⁷**And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.** ¹⁸**And they all with one consent began to make excuse.** The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. ¹⁹And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. ²⁰And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. ²¹So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt,

and the blind. ²²And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

²³And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

This analogy is a reference to the “*Goodness of God...*”

The meal represents the Lord Jesus Christ...

Everything’s been done... All you have to do is come!

God the Father invites all to come... Will You come?

Like these men here...you may “*Justify*” why you cannot...but know this...you are not just!

²⁴For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Jesus Is Lord... The only question is, is He Lord of your life?

T According to scripture...the only person who will be “*justified*” before God, is the one who lives his/her life in submission, **not** to the law of God...but to the *Son of God*.

Paul has described 3 kinds of people on the earth...

- 1) He who has nothing to do with God
- 2) He who is religious...conforms to the laws of God...*but walks in his own will and ways...*
- 3) He who has turned from both, and now follows Jesus Christ as Lord...

The “**JUST**” shall live their lives in submission to Lord Jesus Christ!