

Romans 3:28~31

As I thought on this passage of scripture, I tried to think of ways that I could express to you, the depths of the wisdom and revelation that is revealed here... There is no other place in the bible that the ways of God is more clearly shown, than here in Romans 3...

I'm convinced, that as we read this section of scripture, that we have just entered into that "*secret place*", the "*sacred place*"...the **very heart of God**...

There has been times, while studying, that I could not hear the voice of God very well...numerous times... Times when I couldn't *quiet hear* what he was saying... It was there, I just couldn't get it.

But not so here...**Nowhere else does God speak "so clearly" to us, than here in Romans.**

Here the problem is not the "*lack of*", but rather the "*over abundance of*..."

The bible contains...3,566,480 letters...810,697 words...31,175 verses...1,189 chapters...66 books...written by **40 different** writers...over thousands of years...

A most amazing book, one that Paul "sums up" with one single, solitary, statement...

²⁸*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified **by faith** without the deeds of the law.*

Out of Paul's careful study of the scripture, Paul came to "*the conclusion*" that *all of scripture* can be summed up in one statement... *Man's justification comes by faith in Christ sacrificial death on the cross*...

Every book, every chapter, every verse, every word, every letter...were written with "*One thing*" in mind... To reconcile men and women, into a "*living, breathing, relationship with God.*" And Paul says, that the only possible way is "**by faith**..."

Having made that clear, Paul continues on to say in verses 29~30, that there is no other way...that there is no other means, no other way!

And he does so by pointing to the fact that there is only "*One God*"... The God of the Jews is the God of the Gentiles... And since there is only "*One God*", there is "*One Standard*" for all men...

²⁹*Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: ³⁰**Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.***

With God, it makes no difference:

- Whether you are a *Jew* or *Gentile*...
- Whether you *have the Law* or *do not have the Law*...
- Whether you "*conform to the Law*" or "*do not conform to the Law*..."(re: to **circumcision**)

As far as the Law and man goes... it makes absolutely *no difference* when it comes to man's "*Justification*" before God...

(Vs 20a) ²⁰**Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight**...

Paul declares... **There is only "ONE WAY" for all men to be "JUST" before God**...

(Vs 28) ²⁸*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified **by faith** without the deeds of the law.*

“Faith in Christ sacrificial death on the Cross!”

The place where God the Father sacrificed His Son on the altar, pouring out the full measure of Justice for the penalty of sin! And taking the blood of that sacrifice, and pouring it out all around that altar for an “*atonement for sin...*”

Paul statement carries a twofold meaning...

On one hand... It is “ALL **IN**CLUSIVE...”

On the other... It is “ALL **EX**CLUSIVE...”

It is “ALL **IN**CLUSIVE...” in that it is available to “*Whosoever*”... Every single person on earth, regardless of your race, regardless of color, regardless of your upbringing, regardless of your past...regardless of your religious affiliation or lack thereof... God has made it a level ground, and every individual on earth can be “*justified before God*” through Faith in Christ!

The night C.H. Spurgeon was saved, the text that was read was this... (Isaiah 45:22)

²²*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

I read a article on his conversion... Story has it, that he kept on saying... “*Anyone can look!*”
“*Anyone can look...*”

It is “ALL **IN**CLUSIVE...”

It is “ALL **EX**CLUSIVE...” in that “*No one comes any other way!*” Regardless of a man’s goodness, his conformity to religion, and God’s law... Regardless of his upbringing in the things of God, his diligence to keep the law... Regardless of what he believes, unless a man comes by “*faith...*” he will not come!

Since the fall of man, the means of Justification has always been by “One Way...FAITH.” And it is to that truth, that Paul points to in chapter 4... “*Abraham, the “Father of our Faith” was justified now by his works, but **by faith** in God...*”

In this section, Paul has declared “*The sacrificial Death of Christ on the Cross*” as the only “*Atonement for Sin...*” That there is no other means of justification than this...

(Vs 28) ²⁸*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified **by faith** without the deeds of the law.*

It cannot be any clearer than that!

It is impossible to study this passage, and come away with any other “**conclusion!**”

Yet... there are some churches that have gathered this morning, that have as the basis of their belief, a “*works based*” salvation, or justification! Even though the bible is so clear on the matter...

These people are “marked” in that they “*believe*” that one wrong thought or act, renders them “*lost*” again! In other words, they base their “justification” before God on the basis of their deeds! That is a “*Works Based*” salvation! Simply meaning, a salvation based on my “*good deeds*”...

Which here in this passage, Paul has made “*abundantly clear*” is not the case!

(Vs 22~24) ²²*Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: **for there is no difference:** ²³**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***

(A reference to those who practice the law and those who don’t, Jews and Gentiles...)

In other words... Man's justification has nothing to do with "HIS DEEDS!"

Justification has to do with God's Deeds!

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

Paul has made it abundantly clear, that I could live the rest of my life in "perfect obedience" (if it were possible) and yet, it would make "absolutely NO DIFFERENCE" as far as my Justification before God is concerned!

Why is it so important to understand that? So that no man can boast, except in God!

I'll say it again, if any of us hope to stand justified before God, it will be solely on the basis of our "faith in Christ sacrificial offering for our sin..."

(Vs 28) ²⁸Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. **There is no other way...**

If the bible is so clear on it... Why is there such confusion?

Why are churches so "Diverse" in their belief?

The answer lies in our correct understanding of... "the Law", "Grace", "Faith", "Works."
The very elements of our salvation, that starting here in Romans 3, Paul begins to explain.

Starting here and throughout the rest of the letter, Paul explains each aspect of "Saving Faith..." in great detail!

Having so "Clearly" revealed the means of man's justification, Paul now addresses an issue that has been greatly misunderstood...

An issue that Paul "touches on" here in this section, an issue that he will "elaborate more thoroughly" later in his letter... The relationship between "The LAW" and "FAITH..."

Many have a "very confused" on the "Doctrine of Justification by Faith..."
Some have "MISSUNDERSTOOD" the teaching in that they see no need for the LAW! That, since man can please God by keeping the LAW, then do away with the Law...

And that's the question, that Paul deals with in verse 31... If what Paul says in verse 28 is TRUE... that a man is "Justified by Faith in Christ Alone..." (in **Christ sacrificial death on the cross**)
If a man is "Justified without the deeds of the law..." (Not by our goodness, adherence to the law.)

³¹Do we then make void the law through faith?

That's a "reasonable" question... is it not?

If what Paul says is TRUE... that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law...

Then does that mean, that "Faith" NULLIFIES the "Law?"

- Does "Faith" mean we no longer need the "Law", and render it useless?

If it is impossible to be "justified" by keeping the law... Then do we set it aside?

Many see “*Justification by Faith*” in that man is imperfect, that “*Obedience*” is not a big issue any longer...that one can continue to live in one’s own will and ways, that it really doesn’t matter because it is taken care of in the cross...

But that is simply...NOT TRUE... Obedience, and faithfulness are the “*marks of Saving Faith!*”
The question is not “obedience...” **The question is “*Obedient to what?*”**

It is true... **Obedience to the Law will help no one...**

But it is also true... Obedience to Christ as Lord does...

The best way to put it is this... We turn from serving the Law, and submit ourselves to Christ!

But that is something Paul goes in to detail later... For now, Paul deals with the question...
(Vs 31a) ³¹*Do we then make void the law through faith?*

(Vs 31b) Paul’s answer...*God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

God forbid: Paul answers that question with the strongest “*Negative Greek word*” in the Greek language! ABSOLUTELY NOT! There’s not the “*slightest possibility*”... It conveys the idea, that there is not even the “*slightest hint*” of yes in there! It’s the total absence of Yes, and pure no! It is impossible!

Paul makes clear, that **in no way** does the “*message of Justification by faith*” do away with the law!

Quiet the contrary... *The more we understand the “message of faith”...the more we realize the importance of the “Law,” and the “vital role” it plays in man’s Justification before God!*

Paul says... “*Far from doing away with the law, Faith establishes the law!*”

In that the “*message of faith*” reveals the true meaning and purpose of the law!

There are several meanings and purposes of the Law in the scripture...but this morning, I will generalize them into 4 categories...

The Law was given by God:

- To establish the “*Righteous Standard of God!*”
- To *render all men guilty* before God...(Romans 3:20, Romans 7:7~8)
- To serve as a “*Schoolmaster*” and point us to Christ... (Galatians 3:19~25)
- To manifest “*the Righteous of God*” through the life/death of Jesus Christ... (Matthew 5:17)