**Building A Strong Faith: A Study of the Book of Romans**

**Faith Alone**

 **Romans 3:27-31 April 21, 2024**

**Pastor John Lloyd**

As we begin 2024, I can’t think of a more important asset than a “strong faith” relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our world is filled with both great opportunities and great challenges. The apostle Paul writes, “The righteous shall live by faith.” The book of Romans will map out a path for us how we can be rightly connected to God, ourselves, and others. “Romans is a feast for one’s soul.” There is an amazing work that God desires to do in us through His Son Jesus and empowered by His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the gospel of God. The result will be a strong faith that is able to draw strength from God no matter what comes our way. Today, we will recognize the amazing implications of being made right with God by faith alone. It leaves no place for boasting in my achievements and reminds me that we are all made right with God the same way.

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

**Why study Romans**? Romans 8:1-4. Law could not make us right w/God.

**Romans 3:21-31** How God makes us right with Him through Jesus Christ**. 3:21-24**-The way of salvation **3:25-31** Characteristics of that way of salvation.

**Big Idea**: Faith alone leads me to live by grace alone.

1. Faith alone in Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all human \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 3:27Then 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.

Five rhetorical questions: **2** in vs.27, **2** in vs.29, and **1** in vs. 31 Boasting-(Rom.2:17 & 23,4:2, I Cor.1:29)

It is excluded-

**Spiritual Growth Questions for April 21, 2024**

**Opener**: Do you think people would be sensitive to sin without the Law? Why or why not? What would happen in our world if there were no laws?

1. **Read Romans 3:27-28, Jeremiah 9:23-24.** Apart from trying to keep the Law, what are some things that people boast of today to try and justify themselves with God? How does God’s provision for sin leave no room for boasting? Faith in Jesus not performance or lack of performance assures our justification. How does this principle of justifying faith exclude pride?
2. **Read Galatians 3:19, 22-24**. In what way does our faith fulfill the Law? From the Galatians passage what would you say the purpose of the law in God’s plan? (**Read Romans 3:19-20** for more)
3. The Law made people aware of their sins. The Holy Spirit does the same thing for us today. The difference is that the Holy Spirit also provides the power to change. How closely do your attitudes, behavior and speech match your profession of faith and religious observance? What specific areas might you need to commit to the Holy Spirit to help you change?
4. **Romans 3:29-30.** How does God’s way of righteousness put both Jews and Gentiles on the same level before God? Are you ever tempted to feel superior to unbelievers or to Christians who live less righteously than you? If so, how does this passage affect your attitudes? Ask God to impress these truths within you. How does faith “alone” (solo fide) lead us to “grace alone” (solo gratia)?
5. **Read Romans 3:31, Matthew 5:17-18**. How does righteousness by faith in Christ uphold God’s law? How would you answer someone who taught that Paul was doing away with the whole Old Testament? How could God use the law to keep leading me to depend on Jesus more and more everyday?

**For Further Study: Read Romans 3:31, Psalm 40:8, Jeremiah 31:33-34, Hebrews 9:14, James 2:21-24.** What do these verses teach us about the law, it’s location, how it guides us? How would reconcile what Paul is saying here about justification by faith without works versus what James is saying being justified by works and not by faith alone in James 2:24?

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3 parts of faith- **knowledge** of the truth, **assent** to truth, a **trust** in the truth.

**Everybody needs salvation. Everyone is justified the same way. The ground is level at the cross of Jesus!**

III. Faith alone actually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Law.

Romans 3:31Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Overthrow-

Uphold-

Matthew 5:17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Galatians 3:24So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

Faith in the blood of Jesus actually establishes the law. We are saying “yes we are law breakers and showing the importance of its demands being satisfied.” By taking upon himself the punishment our sins demanded by the Law, Jesus was establishing the Law. The atonement of Jesus establishes the law.” Jones

Hebrews 9:22Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Heb.9:14

Thus, Paul affirms in this section that although the Law pointed people to Christ (3:21, 31) the only means to attain the righteousness of God was by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. No other avenue exists that puts a person in right standing with God than through Christ’s imputed righteousness on our behalf (3:22–30) Rene’ Lopez Romans Unlocked.

Romans 8:3For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but acc. to the Spirit.

**Faith alone leads to living by grace alone.**

**Commitment statement:** Lord, I see clearly that I am a law-breaker. The law continually shows me my need for God, His righteousness and the Holy Spirit in my life. Nothing in my hand I bring simply to your cross I cling.

Philippians 3:4though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

I Cor1:31so that, as it is written, “Let the one who *boasts*, *boast* in the Lord.”

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to *boast* except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Faith is nothing but the instrument or the channel by which this righteousness of God becomes ours. It is not faith that saves us. What saves us is the Lord Jesus Christ and His perfect work. It is the death of Christ upon Calvary’s Cross that saves us. It is His perfect life that saves us. Jones

**Reflective Question**: Is there anything that I am tempted to boast in? (Jeremiah 9:23-24, I Corinthians 4:7, James 4:16, 2 Corinthians 12:9)

**Prayer:** Lord, if there is anything that I am “relying on or boasting in” for my righteousness other than you and your sacrificial death: show me, lead me!

II. Faith alone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for everybody.

Romans 3:29Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. (Romans 4:9-12)

Since God is one-

Justify-

Monotheism means that all must have equal access to God, this can be guaranteed only if faith, not works in obedience to the Jewish law, is made the “entrance requirement.” Doug Moo

Galatians 3:8And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

I Corinthians 1:22For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Only way of salvation is always a stumbling block. The popular concept that there are many ways to God is not taught by Paul and by Jesus. Heresies come by being governed by something other than the Scripture. Lloyd Jones