

Pt 12 Romans 3:21-31, Justified by His Faith

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Romans 3:21-31

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
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;
24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
25 Whom God hath set forth *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;
26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.
27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.
28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
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.
31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Last Sunday we looked at verses 9-20 which told us that there is none righteous, no not one. We saw that God make no preferential treatment between the Jew and the Gentile and that ALL are under sin.

We saw that man is wicked, born into sin and none seek after God. It takes God the Father drawing you before you will seek after Him.

Paul continues with the subject of God's righteousness and man's unrighteousness but shows us that there is a way man can be righteous **but not on his own**. We will see in these next 10 verses that we are justified and made righteous before God through the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have titled the message this morning: "**Justified By His Faith.**"

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 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:

After Paul explains that man cannot become righteous on his own goodness or his own doing but it is entirely the righteousness of God which HE has provided to us through the Lord Jesus which enables us to be righteous.

We are told in the Scriptures that righteousness was and is created by God. We see this great truth over in **Isaiah 45:8** Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; **I the LORD have created it.**
Did you see that? God himself declares that HE created righteousness.

I'm glad of that. Can you imagine what righteousness would be like if MAN created it? Man would ruin it. Man would find some way to weaken it and make excuses for sin and still try to pass it off as being righteous. That is just the way man is.

The Bible says in **Isaiah 55:8-9** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We cannot even grasp what it means to be pure, holy, and completely righteous because our ways are not His ways and our thoughts are not his thoughts. His ways and thoughts are much higher than ours.

So, it does not matter how hard man tries or how smart man thinks he has become, we cannot even compare to God or think like Him.

The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We are told in **1 Peter 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Of course, this is speaking of the stripes the Lord Jesus took upon himself to pay for our sin. Sin is a disease; it is a sickness unto death, but we can be healed from it through the Lord Jesus and Him alone.

Paul writes in our opening text in verse 21a But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...

Righteousness of God doesn't come from the Law or keeping of the Law – Paul says God's righteousness is **manifested WITHOUT the Law**. Some believe if they keep the law, do good deeds, attend Church every time the door is open, or live a clean life that is all that matters. While all these are good things, they cannot save you. They never have had the ability to save man and they never will.

Paul writes in **Galatians 2:16** Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

I feel sorry for those religions that think you can somehow be saved one day and lost the next. That you can believe by faith in the Lord Jesus but if you sin after that you become unsaved. If that were true, we would have to get re-saved every day – no, every hour, no, every minute. I would venture to say we couldn't make it an hour without sinning, even if it is just in our thoughts.

There are actually some people who believe if you sin and then suddenly get killed before you had time to get down and pray and be forgiven of that sin that you will die and go to hell despite the fact that you were forgiven and saved by the Lord Jesus.

Listen, if the shed blood of Jesus isn't powerful enough to keep my saved then it sure isn't powerful enough to save me in the first place!

The truth is, salvation is not dependent upon your prayers. Most of our prayers are empty and hollow. Salvation is not dependent upon YOU at all – it entirely dependent upon the Lord Jesus. **It is though faith in HIM that we are saved.**

Remember what we studied in Chapter 1: **Romans 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

But man wants to believe that keeping the Law can somehow save him. That is certainly what the Jews in Paul's day thought, but as we will study when we get to Chapter 9, NO ONE can be saved by the Law.

Listen to what it says in **Romans 9:30-33** What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;* 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

No matter which dispensation or time in history you visit – salvation and righteousness has always been through FAITH. The Jews didn't believe that, and it caused them to stumble. The Lord Jesus was and still is a stumbling block to the Jew.

22a Even the righteousness of God *which is by faith of Jesus Christ...*

Here again, man has nothing to do with righteousness, it actually comes from the faith of Jesus Christ – **HIS faith** is where righteousness comes from, **not YOURS**. Salvation is YOUR faith in HIM to make you righteous by **HIS faith**.

The Bible says in **Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus is the **author and finisher of our faith**. An author is the person who created it, the finisher is the one who completed it.

The Hebrew writer also says in **Hebrews 2:10** For it became him, for whom *are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.* The word "**captain**" means "**leader or originator.**"

22b... unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

So, Paul says the righteousness of God comes by faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe. In other words, to be saved it is required that you believe in Jesus Christ. That word "**believe**" is the same thing as **faith**. We see that from the Bible in numerous places but probably the most profound is what the Bible says about Abraham:

- **Genesis 15:6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.
- **Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
- **Galatians 3:6** Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
- **James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

This is one of those verses that we use in what is commonly referred to as "The Roman Road to Salvation." We often use this during witnessing:

1. **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
2. **Romans 5:8** But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!
3. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. **Romans 10: 9-10** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

5. **Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The fact is, everyone has sinned, and everyone has come short of the Glory of God. To come short means, you don't have what it takes. If you go to the store to buy groceries and it rings up \$100 but all you have is \$99.00 then you have come up short. You cannot buy your groceries.

Even if you scraped up 99 more cents and had \$99.99, you are still a penny short. At the grocery store you could probably reach in the little change bowl and take a penny and make up for it, but when it comes to God, there is change bowl to cover your sins and you will come up short every single time without the proper payment – which is the Lord Jesus.

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
25 Whom God hath set forth *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;*

Fortunately, we don't have to come up short. We can be justified "**freely**," no cost to us at all, by the **grace** God showed toward us by **redeeming us with his Son, Christ Jesus**. That is what verse 25 means when it says he was **set forth to be a "propitiation."** That word means: "**to appease, or satisfy.**" Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the Holy and righteous anger of God against sin.

26 *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Since Jesus was "**just**," which means **holy, righteous, true, and pure**, then his sacrifice makes us justified before God. All we simply have to do is simply believe in Him.

27 *Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.*

The Jews had not right to boast, which they loved to do. "We be seeds of Abraham." We have Moses and the Prophets!" The Gentiles had not right to boast either. They are seen on equal grounds. No law, no works can save a man, it is entirely based upon faith in the Lord Jesus.

28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*
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. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

Paul sums it up here by pointing out that the law was not void because of faith, but it was established by faith. You see, the Jews would say that Paul was belittling the Law or speaking out against the Law of God and accuse him of blasphemy, but Paul is telling them that **faith is the fulfillment of the Law**.

The Jews tried to claim the same thing against Jesus when he would teach and preach. That is why he told them this in **Matthew 5:17** **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.** The fact is, Jesus kept every single letter of the Law without fail.