

(15) "Where then Is Boasting": Justification by Faith Alone (3:27-31)

# Romans: The Outwork of the Righteousness of God

# Justification!—Line of Thought

- The Way to Salvation thru Works in the Law Is Blocked (Impossible to Go thru) (1:18–3:20)
- There Is Another Way (and the Only Way): Justification by Grace through Faith (3:21-26).
- The New Way Requires Exclusivity: By Grace Alone & through Faith Alone (3:27-31).
- The New Way Was Illustrated by the Life of Abraham (Ch 4).
- The New Life Was Necessitated by the Law (Ch 5).

# Exclusivity, Universality, and Connectivity

- <sup>27</sup> Where then is boasting? It is excluded.
  - By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.
  - <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man 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 indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.
- <sup>31</sup> Do we then nullify the Law through faith?
  - May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.
- (Rom 3:27-31 NAU)

# No Pride Allowed in Heaven

- Mankind Was Made in the Image of God:
  - God Is Spirit (John 4:24): We Have a Spirit.
    - God Is Moral (Righteous): We Have a Conscience.
  - God Is Personal (Father, Son, Holy Spirit: Each Having Mind, Heart, & Will): We Have a Soul (Conscience + Person [M, H, W] + Strength).
    - God Has Strength: We Have Strength.
  - God Can Do Things: We Have a Body.

# No Pride Allowed in Heaven

- When Men Fell in Sin:
  - The Spirit Has Pride: Independence from God.
    - “The Boastful Pride of Life” (1 John 2:16).
    - “We Can Be Like God” (Gen 3:5).
    - “Jump Down from the Temple” (Matt 4:5).
  - The Soul Has Greed: Selfishness above Others.
    - “The Lust of the Eyes” (1 John 2:16).
    - “The Fruit Was Delightful to the Eyes” (Gen 3:6).
    - “Look at the Glory of the Nations” (Matt 4:8).
  - The Body Has Fleshliness: Gratification without Boundary.
    - “The Lust of the Flesh” (1 John 2:16).
    - “The Fruit Was Good for Food” (Gen 3:6).
    - “Turn the Stone into Bread” (Matt 4:3).

# No Pride Allowed in Heaven

- Pride Was Listed First in the “Seven Deadly Sins” in the Middle Ages (“Cardinal Sins” according to the Roman Catholic Church):
  - Pride, Wrath, Envy;
  - Greed/Avarice;
  - Lust/Lechery, Gluttony, Sloth/Discouragement= Fleshliness
- “<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8-9 NAU)

# Exclusivity: Faith Alone

- Paul is Teaching the First of the Five “Alones” of Reformation:
  - Salvation Is by
    - Faith Alone (Sola Fide): Not Faith + Works.
    - Grace Alone (Sola Gratia): Not Grace + Sacraments.
    - Christ Alone (Sola Christos): Not Christ + Mary.
  - Authority Is
    - Scripture Alone (Sola Scriptura): Not Scripture + Pope.
  - The Purpose of Life Is for the
    - Glory of God Alone (Sola Gloria Dei): Not Glory of God + Glory of Men.

# Exclusivity: Faith Alone

- **“<sup>27a</sup> Where then is boasting? It is excluded.”**
  - No Pride/Boasting Is Allowed in Heaven.
- **“<sup>27a</sup> By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.”**
  - The Law Is Not a Means for Salvation through Works.
  - The Law Is a Guide to the Saving Faith in Christ Jesus.
- **“<sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”**
  - Salvation Is through Faith Alone (by Grace Alone), Not by Works in the Law of Moses.
    - This Excludes Potential Human Boasting.
    - Not Boasting by Works in the Law of Moses .



# Eliminating Excuses of Boasting

- Most People Want to Be Relatively Higher than Others, More Than Absolute Excellence.
- Manmade Religions Boast their Specialty to Be Proud of, Mostly on
  - Moral Behavior.
  - Pious Feeling.
  - Intellectual Knowledge.
- True Christian Religion Excludes Human Pride by Themselves, so that They May Receive Their Place & Value by God's Design & Christ's Merit.

# Eliminating Excuses of Boasting

- All of Our Human Merits:
  - Moral Behavior,
  - Pious Feeling, and
  - Intellectual Knowledge,
- Are Dirty Rags in the Eyes of God.
  - For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (Isa 64:6 NAU)
- Salvation Is to Come to God as We Are,
  - Acknowledge to God Our Indebtedness,
  - Receive the Grace of Christ with Gratitude, and
  - Change Our Life according to His Liking.

# Universality of the One True Way

- “<sup>29</sup> Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,”
  - God Is the Universal Creator and the Lord of All Nations.
  - He Is the Savior of the Jews and the Gentiles.
  - Israel Was Chosen as the Means through Which the Salvation of the Gentiles Shall Be Accomplished (Gen 12:1-3).
  - If Salvation Is by the Works in the Law of Moses, It Would Reduce God to the Jews Alone, Contrary to His Nature.
- “<sup>30</sup> since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.”
  - Salvation Has Always Only One Way: by Faith in Christ.
  - It Is the Same for the Jews and the Gentiles.
  - God Is the One Who Gave the Way.

# Connectivity to the Law

- “<sup>31</sup> Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”
  - Jesus Did Not Come to Abolish the Law, He Came to Fulfill It (Matt 5:17).
  - Salvation by Faith Alone Was Established in Genesis through the Life of Abraham (Gen 15:6).
    - Romans 4 Will Develop This Theme.
  - The Law of Moses Was Good, and Given for the Purpose of Leading People to the Faith in Grace.
    - Romans 5 Will Develop This Theme.

# Lessons and Applications

- All Pride and Boasting in Humans Themselves Are Forbidden in Heaven.
  - Salvation Is by Faith Alone, through Grace Alone and in Christ Alone.
  - The Only Proper Attitude in Heaven Is Everlasting Gratefulness to God's Sovereign Grace.
  - We Must Abandon Our Pride, and Come to Christ as Ourselves, to Receive His Grace, and to Be Transformed according to His Pleasure.

# Lessons and Applications

- God Is the One True Lord of All Nations. Therefore, the Way of Salvation Was from the Beginning Designed for All Nations.
- Israel Is a Special People, and a Special Way through Which the Ultimate Goal of Salvation of People from All Nations Will Be Fulfilled.
- There Is Only One True Way of Salvation: Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone.

# Lessons and Applications

- The Law & Works and the Grace & Faith Are Not Exclusive of One Another.
- They Have both Connectivity and Discontinuity.
- The Law Must Be Understood Correctly as the Pointer to Faith, Not as the Means of Salvation.
- In This Way the Law Was Established, Rather Than Destroyed.
- Legalism and Antinomianism Are both Enemies of the True Faith (Rom 6-8 Will Deal with Them).