

FAITH AND THE JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD

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Romans 3:27-31, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28] Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. [29] Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, [30] since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. [31] Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

The End of the Way of Human Achievement to Gain Heavenly Access

Paul deals with three (3) points in this section:

1. ***If the way to God is the way of faith and of acceptance, then all boasting in human achievement is gone.***
   The frame of mind that the Jews (and others) had of getting God to bless them was to try to put God in debt (owing them something for being good…achieving things for God) was not valid. The truth is that "all are sinners and God's debtor…no man can ever put himself in the right relationship with God through his own efforts….grounds for self satisfaction and boasting in one's own achievement no longer exists as a means of getting to heaven or in God's graces.
2. ***The Jews thought that by falling on the mercy of God a Gentile might be reconciled to God because he does not know the law…but, the Jew knows the law; this would not work for him.***
   Paul answers this with a scripture that all Jews knew and understood…or should understand.
   "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one God." (Deuteronomy 6:4)
   There is not one God for the Gentile and another for the Jews. The way to God is the same for the Gentile and Jew. It is not the way of human achievement; it is the way of trusting and accepting faith.
3. ***The Jew asks, "then, does this mean an end of all law?"***
   Paul makes it clear that Jesus did not come to destroy the law..He came to fulfill it. Paul states, "No..the law helps us to understand the love of God along with the fear of God."

If faith saves us instead of works…then why can't we enjoy trying to please God instead of worrying about displeasing Him by failing in keeping all the law all the time. We can't…but, Jesus did and He is our perfect sacrifice who died once and for all.

Do we understand what Christ did for us?
Do we understand that when we fall to our knees seeking forgiveness…God, through Jesus, does a wonderful, miraculous thing?
Tell of what Christ did for you….Give Him glory!

The Faith Which Takes God At His Word, Romans 4:1-8

"What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." [4] Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. [5] But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, [6] just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: [7] "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; [8] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

Paul speaks of Abraham for three (3) reasons:

1. ***The Jews regarded Abraham as the great founder of the race and the pattern of all that a man should be.***
   What makes Abraham different from other people…that God would seek him out and hand-picked him to be the ancestor of God's special people?….Trust and Obey; for there is no other way!
2. ***Paul wanted to prove that what makes man right with God is not the performance of the works that the law lays down, but the simple trust of complete yieldedness which takes God at His word and believes that He still loves us even when we have done nothing to deserve that love.***
3. ***Paul wanted to point out clearly that it was Abraham's faith that carried him into the limelight…not his duties…not his works…not his ability to speak…not his talents…not his leadership ability.***
   Abraham's faith was accounted for righteousness…and so is ours.
   God told Abraham, "If you make this great venture of faith, you will become the father of a great nation."
   Abraham took God at His word.

Abraham did not argue, did not hesitate, he went out not knowing where he was going….but, knew and was looking forward to the city with foundations….whose architect and builder is God.
It was faith…then…and it is faith now that we have received the promise.
Abraham was blessed…because of his faith.
We will be blessed because of our faith.
Stay true to what you read in God's word…Be still, and know that He is God.

The supreme discovery of the Christian life is that we do not need to torture ourselves with a losing battle to earn God's love…but, rather the need to accept in perfect trust the love which God offers us.