

A MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

ROMANS 3

Text:

Introduction:

It's been said, "There can be no good news without bad news."

Certainly as we have seen over the last few weeks there is certainly bad news in the early chapters and verses in this book.

Chapter 1 deals with the deplorableness or degradation of man. Rebellious toward God, His Word, Work, and Will for their lives.

Romans 1:28

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

At this point, man's rejection of God is complete. As they give themselves more fully to their sins, the less room they have in their minds for God. Eventually, He is rooted totally out of the picture by the vile affections that have these people trapped!

Even the gods of his own invention become less and less necessary. The person who has come this far in his rebellion comes to think of himself as his own god.

Chapter 2 deals with the diversity of man – Gentile, and Jew. We see there is no respect of person. We also see the things that many believe are their means of salvation: race, religion, ritual and routine.

We read in chapter 3:9-19:

Romans 3:9-19

⁹What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; ¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: ¹⁴Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: ¹⁶Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: ¹⁷And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸There is no fear of God before their eyes. ¹⁹Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

This is certainly the bad news.

If this was how the book ended certainly we would be left with no hope, however we note this evening

though a man is not justified by the law, man can be justified by faith in Christ.

Notice:

Read Romans 3:21-31

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.

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS DECLARED (VS. 21-23)

Romans 3:21-23

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;

A. Three Facts Reveal It (vs. 21)

Romans 3:21

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

1. This salvation is separate from good works. (vs. 21 a)
2. This salvation is supported from God's Word. (vs. 21 b)
3. This salvation substantiated by godly witness (vs. 21 c)

B. True Faith Receives It (vs. 22)

Romans 3:22

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:

1. The agency of salvation (vs. 22 a) – the righteousness of God which is by faith
2. The appropriation of salvation (vs. 22 b) – unto all and upon all them that believe

Note: It's interesting this righteousness is given to and laid upon.

We have the possession of righteousness, as well the covering of righteousness.

When God looks at the believer, he doesn't see the individual described in Romans 1 & 2, but rather His own righteousness that cover the believer.

3. The access to salvation (vs. 22 c) – for there is no difference.

C. The Fact That Must Be Recognized (vs. 23)

Romans 3:23

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

1. The number of sinners
2. The nature of sin

2. RIGHTEOUSNESS DEFINED (VS. 24-26)

- ### A. The Principle of Salvation (vs. 24 a) – by his grace

Romans 3:24

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

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of

yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

B. The Procurement of Salvation (vs. 24 b) – by Jesus Christ

Romans 3:24

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

C. The Propitiation or Payment for Sin (vs. 25 a)

Romans 3:25

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;

D. The Purpose of the Sacrifice (vs. 26)

Romans 3:26

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

1. Just

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Justifier

3. RIGHTEOUSNESS DEFENDED (VS. 27-31)

A. Faith Eliminated Legalistic Pride (vs. 27-28)

Romans 3:27-28

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.

1. There is no boasting in works for salvation or following salvation

B. Faith Equalizes Lost People (vs. 29-30)

Romans 3:29-30

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.

1. The consistency of God

- There is only One God Who Justifies.
- There is only One Ground of Justification

C. Faith Establishes the Laws Purpose (vs. 31)

Romans 3:31

³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Faith doesn't erase the law of God, but rather establishes the Law of God.

Close:

Read Galatians 3

Galatians 3:1-29

¹ O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ² This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³ Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? ⁴ Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. ⁵ He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ⁶ Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. ⁷ Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. ⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. ⁹ So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. ¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. ¹¹ But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith. ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. ¹³ Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: ¹⁴ That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. ¹⁵ Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though *it be* but a man's covenant, yet *if it be* confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. ¹⁶ Now to

Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. ¹⁷ And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise. ¹⁹ Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not *a mediator* of one, but God is one. ²¹ **Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. ²² But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. ²⁴ Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.