

Romans 3:21-31 Where is Boasting? Where is Despair?

The true gospel strips man of every boast and gives God all the glory in salvation. Any gospel that leaves man room to boast is a misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the true gospel. But since salvation is all of God, the struggling believer needs to stop staring at self/failure and look only to Christ.

TOPICS- Gospel, Salvation, Grace, Justification, Faith

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David Guzik: I feel like a baseball player who's just walked onto the field at Yankee Stadium, or a mountain climber who's looking up from the base of Mount Everest to the summit peak...

-John MacArthur: I suppose every preacher of the Word of God longs to teach this section because of its profound richness.

Leon Morris & John Stott: "The most important single paragraph ever written.."

-Martin Luther: The chief point of the Epistle, and of the whole Bible.

-Martyn Lloyd-Jones: If I were asked which in my opinion is perhaps the most important and crucial passage in the whole of the Scriptures, I think I should have to say this — Romans 3:21 to 31.

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"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight"

John 19:30 NKJV — So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

-"Paid in Full"

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"being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets"

Genesis 15:6 NKJV — And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

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"through faith"

Ephesians 2:8 NKJV — For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...

Faith doesn't save you, it is the avenue by which you receive your salvation.

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Justified = dikaiōō(δικαιώω) “to declare/pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be”

Freely = dōrean(δωρεάν); freely, undeservedly

John 15:25 — ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

-What did Jesus do that deserved to be hated?

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Redemption = apolytrōsis(ἀπολύτρωσις) “a releasing effected by payment of ransom”

-Lit. Apo (away from) + Lutron (ransom or slave debt)

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“The whole is from God, and nothing from us.”

— John Calvin, on Romans 3:24

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Propitiation = hilastērion(ἱλαστήριον)

Propitiation Requires:

-1) An offense to be taken away

-2) An offended person who must be pacified or reconciled

-3) An offending person who is guilty and needs pardon

-4) A sacrifice or means of atonement for the offense

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The offended party has the right to determine what satisfies the offense.

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“Passed over”

Acts 17:30 — “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

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To merely ignore sin would be unjust.

How many of you have been seriously wronged, mistreated, or abused in your life?

-How many of you desire justice?

-Yet, how many of us have done things that were seriously wrong and very sincerely desired mercy?

“Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.”
— Before the Throne of God Above,
Charitie Lees Bancroft

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“Where is boasting? It is excluded.”
-But the other side of the coin is: “Where is despair? It is also excluded.”

We cannot boast in our salvation because it is all of God, but we also cannot despair of our salvation because it is all of God.

“But pastor, you do not know what I have done, the evil I have done, and how much I have failed!”

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Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV — For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1 Corinthians 1:29-31 — “that no flesh should glory in His presence” and “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

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“apart from deeds of law”

Deeds & works both are ergon(ἔργον)

Romans 6:1 — What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

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“there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.”

Acts 15:11 — “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Galatians 3:28 — There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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“Make void” = katargeō(καταργέω) 27x, lit. “To render idle/useless”

Establish = histēmi(ἵστημι); of 158x, only 5x is translated “establish” nearly all the rest is “to set” or “to stand”.

-i.e. faith does not render law useless, it puts it in its correct place.

1 Timothy 1:8-9 — But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners...

Romans 3:20 — Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

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**Ten Boom- "Look at the world, you'll be distressed. Look within, you'll be depressed. Look at Christ, you'll be at rest.

"Immediately I received strength to believe it, and the full beams of the Sun of Righteousness shone upon me. I saw the sufficiency of the atonement He had made, my pardon sealed in His blood, and all the fulness and completeness of His justification. Unless the Almighty arm had been under me, I think I should have died with gratitude and joy. I could only look up to heaven in silent fear, overwhelmed with love and wonder..."

**“There is a fountain filled with blood

Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;

And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,

Lose all their guilty stains’

~William Cowper