

**"The Doctrine of Justification"**

**Romans 3:21-5:11**

**Part 5**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we looked at two verses from Romans 3.

**Notice Romans 3:27-28**

In these two verses combined with the previous verses Paul made it very clear that Justification is by faith and faith alone. Man's works have nothing to do with his salvation, but his salvation has everything to do with the finished work of Jesus Christ. In the Romans 3:24-26 we learned that for our sins to be forgiven the righteousness of God had to be satisfied. God's righteousness has demanded that all sin must be judged and paid for.

**Ezekiel 18:20a**

*<sup>20</sup> The soul that sinneth, it shall die...*

**Romans 6:23a**

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death;*

The justice and the righteousness of God make it IMPOSSIBLE for man to earn the forgiveness of sin. You see, if we could do enough righteous works to earn God's favor we would still face the judgment of God because all the sins that would be on our account must be judged. Because God is righteous and holy He cannot just set our sin aside without judging them. His perfect justice demands that sin must be judged. His wrath and His justice must be satisfied. That is exactly why Jesus Christ died on the cross for it was on the cross that our sins were judged in Him.

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

*<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

*<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> 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.

So, in all of this Paul has made it very clear that man is saved by faith and not by works or by keeping the Law.

I. **The Provision for Man's Greatest Need**

**Part 5**

There would be Jews in Paul's day and even in our day that would greatly dispute the last statement which Paul made in verse 28.

**Romans 3:28**

<sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

The Jews would argue that God gave to them the Law as a means of salvation. So, Paul will take the time to show them they are wrong, and that salvation has always been by grace through faith.

**Notice Romans 3:29**

Here in this verse Paul asks two questions to correct their theology. Let me show you the words of **J Vernon McGee** as he explains this passage;

*"In other words, does God belong to the Jews alone and not also to the Gentiles? And Paul says, "Yes, to the Gentiles also." Now, listen to this. This is a very cogent argument. Paul says, "If justification is by the law, then God does belong to the Jews. But if justification is by faith, then He is the God of both Jews and Gentiles." Now, notice the logic of this. If the Jew persisted in this position, then there must be two Gods-one for the Jews, one for the Gentiles. But the Jew would not allow this. He was a monotheist, that is, he believed in one God. Probably the greatest statement that ever was given to the nation Israel was Dt 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: Jehovah, our Elohim is one Jehovah" (literal translation mine). That was the clarion message He gave in the pagan world before Christ came."*

This Truth was difficult for the Jews to accept. They wanted God for themselves and they had a problem with thinking the Gentiles shared the same God. Remember Jonah and the reason why he did not want to go to Nineveh? It was because he did not want to see

the Ninevites saved. He did not want to think that the Gentiles could have the same God he had.

**Jonah 3:10-4:2**

<sup>10</sup> *And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.*

<sup>1</sup> *But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.*

But the Jews were monotheists, meaning they knew there was only one God and the Bible is very clear that God is not only the God of the Jews, but He is also the God of the Gentiles.

**Genesis 12:1-3**

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*

<sup>2</sup> *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

<sup>3</sup> *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

It would be from the line of Abraham that Jesus would come and when God told Abraham that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed He was stating that His plan of salvation was not only for the descendants of Abraham (the Jews) but it was also for the Gentiles. The New Testament also tells us that God is the God of the Gentiles. In Acts 9 we see the Words that God spoke to Ananias.

**Acts 9:15**

<sup>15</sup> *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*

Then in Romans 1 we read these Words.

**Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> *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.*

Let me now get you back to Paul's thought in the verse we are looking at. Since God is the God of the Jews and the Gentiles and He has made a way of salvation that is the same for both then it CANNOT be by keeping the Law because the Law was not given to the Gentiles. If the Jews are going to be saved it must be by FAITH and not by keeping the Law. Some Jews may have believed that God saved them through works/keeping the Law but for others He saved by faith. That was the reasoning of the Jews, but it was completely wrong.

**Notice the words of Vine:**

*"Faith is not a national quality, so neither is God merely a national God. Justification is not granted on a condition which only those under the Law can fulfill."*

**Notice Romans 3:30**

Here Paul brings it altogether and declares that there is only ONE GOD and salvation is ONLY by faith for anyone who will come to Him.

**Application:**

Let me take the time and bring this into our day so that we can see how this applies today. There are many different denominations that exist today. If we were to attend services within the different churches we would hear that many of them preach different ways of salvation. Some believe salvation is by works, some believe it is through church membership, some believe it is through confirmation classes, some believe it is through baptism, some believe that God has a set of balances and He will weigh our good works against our sinful works, others believe that people can buy their way into heaven, there are those who believe that we must suffer to be accepted by God and they believe that if we do not suffer enough here then we are sent to purgatory where we will complete our suffering then move on to heaven and then there are those who believe God is a God of love and all roads lead to heaven.

All of these are contrary to what the Bible teaches. Salvation is only by GRACE through FAITH in the finished work of Jesus Christ. There is no other way to God apart from Jesus Christ and His death on the cross.

**Acts 4:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

<sup>11</sup> *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*

<sup>12</sup> **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

**John 3:36**

<sup>36</sup> **He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:** and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**John 14:1-6**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

<sup>4</sup> *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

<sup>5</sup> *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

**1 Timothy 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

**1 John 5:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

<sup>12</sup> **He that hath the Son hath life;** and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

<sup>13</sup> *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

Now with all of this said we must understand that the Jew would then claim that if faith is the way of salvation for all then you are stating that the Law is useless.

**Notice Romans 3:31**

Paul here makes it very clear that salvation by faith does not make the Law void but instead it establishes the Law. Let me show you how the cross establisher the Law;

The cross establishes, or confirms, the law in three ways:

**First**, it establishes the law by paying the penalty of death, which the law demanded for failing to fulfill perfectly and completely its righteous requirements. When Jesus said that He had come not to abolish the law or the prophets but to fulfill them ([Matthew 5:17](#)), He was speaking not only of His sinless earthly life but of His sin-bearing death.

In the Old Testament we can see how failure to keep the Law brought death in order to fulfill the Law.

### **Numbers 15:32-36**

*<sup>32</sup> And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.*

*<sup>33</sup> And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.*

*<sup>34</sup> And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.*

*<sup>35</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.*

*<sup>36</sup> And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

**Second**, the cross establishes the law by driving men to faith in Jesus Christ. Paul had already declared this.

### **Romans 3:20**

*<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

### **James 2:10**

*<sup>10</sup> For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

### **Galatians 3:24**

*<sup>24</sup> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

**Third**, the cross establishes the law by providing believers the power to walk in obedience to it.

**Romans 8:1-4**

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

<sup>2</sup> *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

<sup>3</sup> *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

<sup>4</sup> *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

**Conclusion:**

Let me show you a verse from the Sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

Jesus came to fulfill the Law for us. Man has failed at keeping the Law and therefore death is demanded by the perfect righteousness of God. So, Jesus died for us to satisfy the demands of the Law on our behalf. Now someone would say that He died on the cross, but we did not die on the cross. But let us understand that IN CHRIST we have been crucified and therefore the righteous demands of God are satisfied.

**Romans 6:1-4**

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

<sup>2</sup> *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

<sup>3</sup> *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

<sup>4</sup> *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

**Galatians 2:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

<sup>20</sup> **I am crucified with Christ**: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.