

#18 - Romans 3:27-31

v. 22 - “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.”

Rom. 3:27 - Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.

- What kinds of boasting is excluded? Any boast toward self-merit, self-worth, and self-achievement.
 - Jeremiah 9:23-24 - ²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”
 - Philippians 3:4-9 - ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, [\[c\]](#) blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
 - Tim Keller: To boast in [self-achievement, religious or otherwise] is like a drowning man clutching a fistful of hundred-dollars bills and shouting: I’m OK! I’ve got money!

By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by a law of faith.

- Basically, sola fide - by faith alone. Law here refers to the the “principle” or “rule” of faith. (See Moo, 249)
- “...when people believe this particular message, that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead, and trust themselves to the God who has done this, they are assured in the present time that they are part of God’s family. This is not because there is anything meritorious in that belief, as though it were after all ‘something we do to earn God’ favour’. Rather it is because this faith is the sure and unfailing sign that the gospel has transformed the heart of the person concerned, so that they now truly belong to the new covenant.” (Wright, 62 [who actually does not agree with Moo that law refers to “rule” but refers to the Jewish boundary marker, the Torah, so “law].

Romans 3:28-30 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one — who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

- Cf. v. 22a - “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ
- “A serious erosion of the full significance of Paul’s gospel occurs if we soften this antithesis; no works, whatever their nurture or their motivation, can play any part in making a sinner right with God.” - Douglas Moo, 251
- Cf. v. 22b - “for all who believe.”
- Jew and Gentile, all find their place in the one God by faith!

Where will I tend to find my righteousness? When I’m not leaning on Jesus, what will I most likely be leaning on? (Adapted From *Gospel Eldership* by Robert Thune, pg. 30-31)

- *Discipline Righteousness*: I work hard and have a strong sense of self-discipline; clearly I’m equipped to lead others.
- *Family Righteousness*: Because I “do things right” as a parent, I’m a better and more godly leader than those who have unruly kids.
- *Theological Righteousness*: I have good theology, therefore I’m obviously a credible spiritual leader.
- *Intellectual Righteousness*: I am better read, more articulate, and more culturally savvy than others, which makes me leadership material.
- *Accessibility Righteousness*: In a world that’s busy, I’m always accessible and available to others when they need me.
- *Mercy Righteousness*: I care about the poor, disadvantaged, and voiceless the way everyone should.
- *Evangelistic Righteousness*: I seek out the lost and share my faith openly which shows that I’m really serious and worthy to lead.
- *Legalistic Righteousness*: I obey God’s commands. In our sin-warped culture, it’s natural that younger Christians should look to me as a godly example.
- *Financial Righteousness*: I manage money wisely and stay out of debt, proving my wisdom and trustworthiness.
- _____ *Righteousness*: [I’m godly, credible, “in the right” because...]

Any false righteousness leads to superiority or shame.

- Superiority: Look at how much better I am than *them*.
- Shame: I’m not enough. I don’t do enough. I’ll never be as good as *them*.

The way of the gospel is the way of freedom!

- Humility: Christ is superior, the perfectly righteous one.
- Boasting: In Christ and through His work on the cross, I'm enough. The law is fulfilled in me. (Cf. Rom. 8:4; Gal. 6:14)

Romans 3:31 - Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

- Most likely forecasting Romans 8:4: "While we cannot be certain, it is likely that Paul means essentially...that the Christian faith, far from shunting aside the demands of the law, provides (and for the first time!) the complete fulfillment of God's demand in his law." (Douglas Moo, 255)