

1. How often do you find yourself worrying what others think of you? How does the good news set you free from this?

2. Our boasting about our own goodness doesn't always feel like boasting to us. Has the gospel message in our text helped reveal any of your hidden boasting? It might be helpful to discuss & pray about this with a brother or sister.

3. How sweet it is to have the weight of trying to justify ourselves removed! Have you experienced this freedom? If not, who can help you with this? If so, review this beautiful truth daily!

4. Do you find yourself often judging yourself? How does the light of our justification by grace through faith free you from this? Discuss this with a brother or sister in Christ.

5. How can this truth can be communicated to the lost people in your life? Who needs to speak the message? Who needs to reveal it to their hearts?



Sunday, September 27, 2020
One God, One Way, the Way of Faith
 Romans 3:27-31

The Law of Nature; “Right” & “Wrong”

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity “These, then, are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.”ⁱ

We are all desperate to defend our own inherent goodness

Proverbs 21:2

² Every way of a man is *right in his own eyes*, but the Lord weighs the heart.


Review: We are not Guilty nor is God

God righteously grants our righteousness through faith by putting forward Jesus as our propitiation.



Martin Luther – “the chief point ... of the whole Bible” “if that article stands, the church stands; if it falls, the church falls.”

Romans 4:5 (Abraham – Further Explain & Defend...)

⁵ And to the one who does not work but **believes in him** who justifies the ungodly, **his faith** is counted as righteousness... 

- I. **Through Faith** in Jesus, We are not Guilty
- II. **Through Christ's Redemption** God is not Guilty

Romans 3:26

...so that he might be *just* and *the justifier* of the one who has **faith in Jesus**. 

Introduction to Romans 4-5 (3:27-31)

God's “faith alone” justification strategy reveals and excludes human boasting.

I. **One God, One Way of Justification (29-30) “Defend”**

Douglass Moo, “...in Judaism, God was the God of Gentiles only by virtue of his creative work, while only the Jews enjoy any meaningful relationship with God; this is expressed in [a] later Jewish text: “I am God over all that came into the world, but I have joined my name only with you [Israel]; I am not called the God of the idolaters, but the God of Israel.”ⁱⁱ (e.g. **Jonah**)

ⁱ Lewis, C. S. (2009-05-27T23:58:59). Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis Signature Classics) . HarperOne. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱ Moo, D. J. (1996). [The Epistle to the Romans](#) (p. 251). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ **since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.**

II. “Faith Alone” Excludes Boasting (27-28) “2 Implications”


²⁷ Then *what becomes of our boasting?* It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by **the law of faith**.

²⁸ For we hold that one is justified **by faith** apart from works of the law.

God’s gospel cuts the heart out of sinful human boasting.

III. “Faith Alone” Reveals Boasting (31)

- ✓ Paul is often accused of teaching people to despise the Law
- ✓ Who really cares about upholding the Law?

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

Be Washed in the Cleansing Power of the Gospel

Titus 3:4–7

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly **through Jesus Christ our Savior**, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Gospel is for Everyone:

- ✓ Unbelievers... (Non-Religious & Religious)
- ✓ Believers...
 - The gospel is our engine for spiritual growth
 - Strength can hinder, weakness is our friend
 - Only Jesus can remove the slavery of human judgement

1 Corinthians 4:3–4

³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

⁴ For **I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.**

Paul wrote the letter to the Romans to bring about the obedience of faith in Jesus Christ for the glory of God. (Cf. Rom. 1:5; 16:25–27)

ESV Outline:

Romans 1:8–15	Paul’s Longing to Visit Rome
Romans 1:16–15	The Righteous Shall Live by Faith
Romans 1:18–32	God’s Wrath on Unrighteousness
Romans 2:1–11	God’s Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:12–29	God’s Judgment and the Law
Romans 3:1–8	God’s Righteousness Upheld
Romans 3:9–20	No One Is Righteous
Romans 3:21–31	The Righteousness of God Through Faith
Romans 4:1–12	Abraham Justified by Faith
Romans 4:13–25	The Promise Realized Through Faith
Romans 5:1–11	Peace with God Through Faith
Romans 5:12–21	Death in Adam, Life in Christ (Next Week)
Romans 6:1–14	Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Romans 6:15–23	Slaves to Righteousness
Romans 7:1–6	Released from the Law
Romans 7:7–25	The Law and Sin
Romans 8:1–11	Life in the Spirit
Romans 8:12–17	Heirs with Christ
Romans 8:18–30	Future Glory
Romans 8:31–39	God’s Everlasting Love
Romans 9:1–29	God’s Sovereign Choice
Romans 9:30–10:4	Israel’s Unbelief
Romans 10:5–21	The Message of Salvation to All
Romans 11:1–10	The Remnant of Israel
Romans 11:11–24	Gentiles Grafted In
Romans 11:25–36	The Mystery of Israel’s Salvation
Romans 12:1–2	A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:3–8	Gifts of Grace
Romans 12:9–21	Marks of the True Christian
Romans 13:1–7	Submission to the Authorities
Romans 13:8–14	Fulfilling the Law Through Love
Romans 14:1–12	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Romans 14:13–23	Do Not Cause Another to Stumble
Romans 15:1–7	The Example of Christ
Romans 15:8–13	Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles
Romans 15:14–21	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles
Romans 15:22–33	Paul’s Plan to Visit Rome
Romans 16:1–16	Personal Greetings
Romans 16:17–23	Final Instructions and Greetings
Romans 16:25–27	Doxology