

10-21-18

Series: The Book of Romans

FAITH AND JUSTIFICATION: THE WAY FOR THE WORLD TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD

(95)

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[Romans 3:21-5:21](#)

(Continuation from 06/03/18)

B. Faith: The Way that Puts an End to Human Boasting and Pride, to Self-Righteousness and Works, [Romans 3:27-31](#)

Romans 3:27-31 (NASB)

²⁷ “Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

²⁹ Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,

³⁰ since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

³¹ Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

([Romans 3:27-31](#)) Introduction: one of the most powerful forces in all the world is faith. This passage discusses the power of faith, revealing four things that faith does.

1. **Faith excludes boasting (v.27).**
2. **Faith justifies a man without the works of the law (v.28).**
3. **Faith reveals only one God, who deals with all equally (v.29-30).**
4. **Faith upholds and establishes the law (v.31).**

[DEEPER STUDY # 1 \(Romans 3:27-31\) Faith](#)

DEEPER STUDY # 1

Romans 3:27-31 (NASB)

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[\(Romans 3:27-31\)](#) **Faith**: see below [Deeper Study # 2, John 2:24](#); see note [Deeper Study # 3](#),—[Romans 10:16-17](#); and [Deeper Study # 4, Hebrews 10:38](#).

DEEPER STUDY # 4

Hebrews 10:38 (NASB)

³⁸ “BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.”

[\(Hebrews 10:38\)](#) **Faith**: the Christian believer is to walk by faith, not by feelings and emotions. The tendency of people, even of Christians, is to live by their feelings and emotions. They act according to their feelings. They experience some emotion, so they behave according to that emotion. If they feel bad, they act irresponsibly: grumbling, complaining, and reacting. If they feel good, they act happy. **Their behavior is determined by how they feel and react to emotional experiences.**

Living by one’s feelings is contrary to God’s will. “**The just shall live by faith**”—this is God’s will. The Christian is to let faith control him. He is to let faith control his life and the particular problems that confront him every so often.

How does a believer live by faith? What does it mean *to live by faith*? It means **to do four things—consistently.**

1. The believer is to commit his life and his problems to God—all day long—throughout all his waking hours. He is to take the experiences and the problems of his day and commit them to God *once-for-all*. He is to believe that God hears his commitment and gives the strength to walk triumphantly throughout the day. He is to know that God does not like a whining, whimpering child begging and begging for strength when all he is doing is wallowing around in self-pity.

2. The believer is to deny self. The feelings, emotions, and selfishness of his flesh are to be rejected, even ignored if necessary.

3. The believer is to act as though he has made a commitment to God. He *has made* a commitment, so he is to act like it. His feelings are immaterial. He is to act responsibly. He is to go ahead and do what he should be doing. He is to behave as he should.

4. Then while the believer is doing what he ought to be doing, he is to be asking God for His grace and strength. He is to be acknowledging God in all His ways throughout the whole day. He is to walk in prayer all day long, asking forgiveness as he comes short and slips and falls, and praising and thanking God for His eternal mercy and grace.

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God does not direct the believer's path and then the believer feels good and goes about doing right. It is while the believer is going about his affairs in a responsible way that God directs his paths. This is the life of the new and living faith wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ for those who believe and follow Him.

1. (Romans 3:27) Faith— Boasting— Self-righteousness: faith excludes boasting among men.

Romans 3:27 (NASB)

²⁷ **“Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.”**

Boasting is now excluded and eliminated, banished and made impossible. No man can boast in himself before God. No man can boast in his own **righteousness, goodness, merit, or virtue.**

What is it that keeps man from boasting and glorying in himself? This is puzzling.

Think about it, all the advancements of man...

- 1) the scientific and technological advancements.
- 2) the medical and health advancements.
- 3) the commercial and farming advancements.
- 4) the comfort and recreational advancements.

When man is considered, the power of his mind and all that he is able to produce, it is very difficult for some to understand why man cannot boast in himself. What is it, then, that forbids man to boast in himself? What kind of law would prohibit man from glorying in his ability and achievements?

1. It is not the *law of works*. The law of works does not exclude boasting; it promotes boasting. When a man looks at what he has done, at the works of his hands, he is led to boast and to glory in himself. A law of works does not discourage boasting, it encourages it. A law of works encourages a man to be **selfish, self-centered, prideful, and self-righteous.**

It causes a man to stand before God and other men and declare that he...

- 1) is more acceptable than others.
- 2) is more deserving than others.
- 3) has achieved more than others.
- 4) is more sufficient than others.
- 5) is more adequate than others.
- 6) has no need beyond himself and this world.

A law of works causes men to be focused upon self. It causes men to center the world around themselves: to look upon themselves as the power that creates and sustains the world, as the power that gives purpose, meaning, and significance to life. A law of works encourages boasting; it does not exclude it.

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Romans 12:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”

James 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.”

Revelation 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”

Psalms 10:3 (NASB)

³ “For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire, And the greedy man curses and spurns the LORD.”

Psalms 49:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ “Even those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?

⁷ No man can by any means redeem *his* brother Or give to God a ransom for him.”

Proverbs 3:7 (NASB)

⁷ “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”

Proverbs 25:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “Like clouds and wind without rain Is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.”

Proverbs 26:12 (NASB)

¹² “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Proverbs 27:1 (NASB)

¹ “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.”

Isaiah 5:21 (NASB)

²¹ “Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!”

2. It is the *law of faith*. The law of faith excludes boasting. Man has to boast in God when man believes what Scripture has just declared (**Romans 1:18-3:26**)...

- 1) that *God is* (does exist),
- 2) that God is the creator of the universe and can be known by man,
- 3) that man is short of God’s glory and righteousness,
- 4) that God has provided righteousness for man *through faith*.

It is God who has created and given man his ability and who has provided righteousness for man. God has provided the way for man to be saved from sin, death, and hell. Therefore, man has to boast in God and not in self, for God is the One who has given man all that he has, both his natural ability and his eternal salvation. It is the law of faith, not the law of works that eliminates boasting.

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1 Corinthians 1:31 (NASB)

³¹ “So that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

2 Corinthians 10:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.”

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NASB)

²⁰ “For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

2 Thessalonians 1:12 (NASB)

¹² “So that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.”

Psalms 22:23 (NASB)

²³ “You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.”

Psalms 44:8 (NASB)

⁸ “In God we have boasted all day long, And we will give thanks to Your name forever. Selah.”

Isaiah 45:25 (NASB)

²⁵ “In the LORD all the offspring of Israel Will be justified and will glory.”

Jeremiah 9:24 (NASB)

²⁴ “But let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.”