

## **The Gospel Destroys Boasting**

(Rom 3:27-28)

- Read 3:21-31
  - In this subsection from v.25 -v.31, Paul is describing the characteristics of the salvation God has provided for man
- I. Characteristics of salvation
- A) It justifies/vindicates God and His holiness and perfection
  - B) It eradicates all boasting
  - C) It eliminates all distinctions among men in the flesh
  - D) It establishes/validates the Law
- II. Boasting excluded
- A) Man's chief end is to glorify God, and therefore salvation must fit this end eternally
    - 1. 1 Cor 1:29- "No flesh shall glory in His presence"
    - 2. Prov 8:13- God hates pride because this detracts from the glory due God
      - i. Psa 10:4- "The wicked through his pride will not seek God"
        - a) Then God must destroy the pride of those He is going to save
          - 1) Rom 3:19- "Stop every mouth"
          - 2) Prov 16:18- "Pride goeth before destruction"
          - 3) Isa 14- Satan's pride
          - 4) Prov 6:16-17- Pride at the top of the list of the things God hates
  - B) Paul seems to go on here after the climax of Rom 3:26 to deal with the issue of pride because he knew it so well to be man's chief issue
    - 1. Phil 3:4-7- The boasting of the Pharisee Paul
    - 2. Boasting- "to glory in, to rejoice over, to praise/worship"
      - i. 1 Cor 1:31- "Let him that glorieth, glory in the Lord"
        - a) All glory and praise belong to God, and therefore any boasting on man's part is robbing God of that which is due Him
        - b) Gal 6:14- "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ"
          - 1) Sin came in that the boasting of the children of God might be destroyed
    - 3. The Jews chief problem was this boasting, and Paul knew that well, and it persisted even after salvation
      - i. Look how easily Peter and Barnabas were brought back under that way of thinking in Gal 2
      - ii. Paul had already established this to the Romans:

- a) Rom 2:17 & 23
- iii. Thus salvation must be carried out by God in a manner that will remove any possibility of boasting
  - a) Isa 40:3-5- The prophecy of the gospel and its effects
  - b) Eph 2:8-9- “Lest any man should boast”.....leads to next point:

### III. By what law?

A) “Law” here doesn’t mean the Jewish Law, it means “principle” or “method” or “rule”

1. By what principle has boasting been eradicated in the children of God?
  - i. By faith, but never “because of” faith or “due to” faith, else boasting is not excluded, but a man might boast of “his faith”
    - a) Faith is not the cause of our salvation, it is the means or the channel through which Christ’s righteousness becomes our own
    - b) Luther explained Rom 3:28 as “by faith alone” and this is not true textually but it is certainly true doctrinally
      - 1) We are saved by means of faith and that totally apart from the deeds of the Law, as Paul goes on to prove by Abraham
        - (a) Abraham saved while uncircumcised
        - (b) Abraham saved 430 years before Moses received the Law
  - ii. Faith is always tied to its object, and never to be isolated as a thing itself
    - a) It is Christ that saves, by His work, by His power, by His righteousness
    - b) Paul understood very well the desire of man to find something to glory in, and must have foreseen that men which leap to the conclusion that “their faith” was the cause of God’s saving them

B) “Law of works” vs “Law of faith” not 2 ages or methods of salvation

1. God has not changed His method of saving men from that of works, to a lesser and easier requirement of that by faith
  - i. Or God asking man to do far less so that His plans for heaven be not thwarted
    - a) Rom 3:31- Destroys the Dispensational Teaching
    - b) The way of salvation “establishes” or fortifies, strengthens, validates, explains the law

C) What about James ch 2?

1. Men set Rom 3:28 -vs- James 2:24
  - i. Luther fell into this trap and called James an “epistle of straw”
2. Context is the most important aspect of bible study or any study of writing
  - i. What is the writer’s aim and goal, what is he trying to establish?

- a) In Rom 3:28, Paul is proving that a man's works simply do not enter into his salvation, and in fact stand in the way of it
- b) In James ch 2, James is dealing with those that were professing to be saved because they "believed" and yet had none of the fruits of faith that always accompany it
  - 1) James arguments all prove this, he asks a question, and then answers it (James 2:14)
    - (a) V.15-16- Example from their daily life
      - (1) V.17- Conclusion
    - (b) V.19- Example of devils
      - (1) V.20- Conclusion
    - (c) V.21-23- Example of Abraham
      - (1) V.24- Conclusion
    - (d) V.25- Example of Rahab
      - (1) V.26- Conclusion and overall summary
- c) We must never separate out "belief" from "faith" in the same way that we must never separate "flesh" and "spirit", otherwise the result is death
  - 1) Faith is a principle of God and it involves the entire man
    - (a) "Belief" alone is not faith, faith always involves subsequent action
      - (1) We must come to know the truth
      - (2) We must accept and acknowledge the truth
      - (3) We must trust and obey the truth
    - (b) Rom 6:17- The whole man involved by faith
      - (1) 1 Thess 5:23- Whole spirit, mind and body
      - (2) 1 Thess 1:5- Not in word only
      - (3) Rom 15:18- In word and deed
      - (4) **Luke 6:46- "Why call ye Me Lord, and do not what I say"**