

What the Cross Declares

(Rom 3:28-29)

- Read Rom 3:21-31
 - Rom 3:21-24 (General statement about the way of salvation) and then Rom 3:25-31 (Details or deductions concerning that way)
- I. The “oneness of God” includes His method of salvation
- A) The entire context of this major section (Rom 1:18-3:31) is dealing with the “oneness” of man in his failure to fulfill the righteousness required by God
1. Lev 18:5- “Do this and live” (Rom 10:5)
 - i. 1 John 3:4-7- The Law is the definition of righteousness
 - ii. Matt 5:17-18- Christ came to Fulfill the Law, and one of the ways in which He did this was in rendering a perfect obedience to it, thus proving His Own righteousness as the Son of God
 - a) Rom 3:19-20- This is something all mankind has failed to do
- B) The entire context of this section would be made void if there were now a distinction between men and 2 methods of salvation for the 2 types
1. Yet this is exactly what Disp. Theology teaches, and many base that upon Rom 3:30 (“by” and “through”)
 - i. Gal 2:16 and 3:8 quickly disprove this theory based upon Greek words
 - ii. KJV disproves it throughout based upon English words
 - a) Acts 15:9, Rom 3:22&28, 5:1, 11:20, Gal 3:22-26, Phil 3:9, Heb ch 11
 - b) Rom 3:25, Gal 3:8, 3:14, Eph 2:8, 2 Tim 3:15, Heb ch 11
- II. Deductions Paul makes after the statement of v.25-26
- A) No boasting possible by men
- B) No distinctions possible among men
- C) No contradictions nor changes in scripture, because there is no change in God
- III. Rom 3:31- Does “the faith” invalidate or replace “the Law?”
- A) What is meant here by “Law?”
1. The whole of the O/T?
 - i. Rom ch 4 seems to suggest that based upon the immediate reference to Abraham and David
 - a) This is true, and all the history of God’s dealings with Israel can only be explained by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b) But notice Rom 4:1 does start with “for”
 2. From v.21 on, “law” is referring to the Law of Moses, moral and ceremonial, and to change to another meaning would be confusion

- i. So in v.31 “law” must refer to the Law of Moses
- B) Establish- “to stand, to make firm, to put in its proper place, to keep intact”
 - 1. Any true preaching of the gospel must “establish” the Law
 - i. If Paul were preaching a new or a 2nd method of salvation, he would not in any way be establishing the law
 - ii. Paul, in v.31, is concluding his deductions about all that he has said from 1:18 till now
 - a) Far from introducing another method of salvation, or another “age of grace”, Paul says the gospel validates and strengthens the law
- IV. How does the gospel “establish” the law? Or “What does the cross testify?”
 - A) The Lord Jesus Christ in His life honored and kept the law 100%
 - 1. Gal 4:6- Born under the law (actively)
 - i. By living according to the law, the Lord proved the law and its requirements were righteous
 - 2. Gal 3:13- Took upon Him the just penalty of the law (passively)
 - i. By submitting to the penalty of the law, the Lord proved the law was just in its demands
 - B) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death proves what the law says about the righteousness of God
 - 1. 1 Pet 1:16- “Be ye holy, for I am holy”
 - i. The Law, 1st and foremost shows the holiness and righteousness of God
 - a) The cross shows this by the necessity of His death, and God allowing His Son to die rather than issuing and release
 - b) Thus the cross is proof of the just nature of God
 - C) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death proves all God said about the vileness of sin and His hatred of it
 - 1. Rom 7:13- Sin is “exceeding sinful”
 - 2. “Propitiation” in Rom 3:25 proves God wrath towards sin
 - D) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death proves all that the Law says about man
 - 1. Rom 3:9-15- “There is none righteous”
 - 2. Ecc 7:20- “Not a just man upon the earth”
 - E) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death explains all the ceremonies and types of the Law
 - 1. Col 2:14-17- Law a shadow, Christ the body
 - F) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death proves the method of God’s atonement
 - 1. Heb 9:22- “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission”
 - G) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death places the law in its proper place spiritually, as a whole in fulness
 - 1. James 1:10- Violate 1 and you have violated all
 - 2. The law is otherwise seen as a series of 613 actions or restrictions

- H) The Lord Jesus Christ in His death fulfills the true fruit of the law spiritually
 - 1. Matt 22:35-40- Love God and love neighbor
 - 2. Rom 13:8-9- Love fulfills law
 - 3. 1 Tim 1:5- End of commandment is charity
 - 4. Gal 5:6- Faith worketh by love
- V. It is true that the “Law” as the O/T is validated and explained by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - A) But this was not Paul’s meaning in Rom ch 3
 - 1. He was instead proving that justification by faith in no way lessened God’s righteousness, nor required a change in God, but was instead the only thing that truly put the law in its proper setting and explained the testimony of Moses
 - B) In Rom ch 4, Paul will begin proving that the gospel is in accordance with the history of the O/T, and is not therefore a contradiction, nor a “new method” of salvation