

Righteousness of the Law Fulfilled In Us

(Rom 8:3-4)

- Remember that Rom 8:1-4 is a summary statement on justification by faith

I. Purpose- “That the righteousness of the law be fulfilled in us”

A) Paul has shown this several times already in the previous 2 chapters, where he addressed the accusation of antinomianism:

1. Rom 6:2- How can a saved person continue living in unabated sin?
2. Rom 6:6- “That henceforth we should not serve sin”
3. Rom 7:4- “That we should bring forth fruit unto God”
4. Rom 7:6- “That we should serve in newness of Spirit”

B) Grace achieves what the law could not

1. The Law did not of itself fail, yet it was bound to fail as a covenant
 - i. The Law (and every covenant of works) is a conditional agreement between 2 parties
 - ii. The agreement’s success is based upon the character of the parties
 - a) It can be no stronger than the weaker party
 - b) Example of the shovel
 - 1) The metal spade and the wooden handle must function together
 - 2) The weakness of the shovel is never in the spade but in the handle
 - 3) In fact, the strength of the spade is made to work against the weakness of the handle
 - (a) Rom 7:7-25- Paul has shown that the exact same is true of the law and the flesh
 - (1) The very nature of the law increases the problem through the weakness of the flesh
2. Therefore we must be “freed from the law” which is bound by the nature of the flesh to fail and to condemn, if we are ever to be freed from sin

II. How?

A) “God sending His Own Son”

1. The entire Godhead is involved in accomplishing our salvation as is shown in 8:1-4
 - i. God 1st, sends His Own Son 2nd and applies it by the Spirit 3rd
2. If at any point the work were dependent upon us, then Paul could never say “there is no condemnation” (for the covenant would be conditional)
 - i. Rom 8:29-30- The whole point Paul makes in ch 8 is that God is doing it
 - ii. There is no Christianity without all 3 persons of the Godhead

B) “God sending His Own Son”

1. This is the main point of the Gospel: God covenanted with His Son and Spirit to perform that which a created being could never accomplish
 - i. Eph 1:3-13- The eternal purpose of God (Everlasting Covenant)
2. John 1:18- The only BEGOTTEN (not created) of the Father (John 3:16)
 - i. Christ “became flesh,” He never “became” the Son of God
 - a) “I AM”- The eternally existent Son of God
 - 1) Unchangeable and immutable- never “becoming” as is true of humans
 - ii. Rom 4:1- Declares what He had always been
 - a) He did not “become” the Son of God in birth, nor in resurrection
 - 1) John 17:5- He was in glory with Father before anything “became”
 - b) The 1st man was “made” in God’s image, yet failed; the 2nd man is God and thus the outcome certain
 - 1) Rom 5:12-21- This was Paul’s point previous
 - c) Rom 3:25-26- This is how God saved sinners prior to the cross:
 - 1) God planned our salvation; Accomplishes it in His Own Son; mediates it by His Own Spirit= full assurance

III. Heb 1:1-3- Only God can create

A) “Heir”- In the sense of being/containing all that is the Father

B) “Being”- Not “becoming”

C) “Brightness”- *apaugasma*- “To send forth light/glory” or “out-raying” as with the sun

1. Mal 4:2- “The Sun of righteousness”

i. Compare the sun and the rays which are sent forth from it:

- a) The brightness of the sun is of the same nature as the sun (Jn 10:30)
- b) The brightness is as old as and continues as long as the sun (Jn 1:1-3)
- c) The brightness can’t be separated from the sun (Prov 8:30)
- d) The brightness is of the sun, but not the sun itself (Jn 8:42)
- e) The brightness and the sun are each distinct (Jn 5:17)
- f) All the glory of the sun is in the brightness (Jn 17:5, 2 Cor 4:6-7)
- g) All that the sun gives to the world is by the brightness (Jn 14:9)

ii. Whatever is in the sun is in its brightness, one is not inferior to the other

a) Christ is the irradiation of all the Father’s glory

iii. Were it not for the rays, we would not know there was a sun

John 6:46- No man hath seen the Father, the Son declares Him

iv. God’s glory is His “weight”, all his person, qualities and attributes

D) “Express image”- *karakter*- Character, “the impress of His person”

1. Root word is to engrave (verb) or that which is engraved (noun)

i. In Koine Greek most commonly used in reference to coins and the process of minting them, or to the wax seals used by authorities

- a) 1 Tim 1:16- Christ sees that which no man can
- b) Col 1:15- Christ the image of the invisible God
 - 1) All we know of God we know through Christ (Jn 1:18)
 - 2) I have never seen the press that made the bicentennial quarters, but I can see it and know it in the image that it presses out
 - (a) “No man knows the Father but by the Son”, for He is the very impress of all God’s substance