

LESSON 7: ROMANS 3:27-31
NOVEMBER 20, 2019

OVERVIEW

- . A definition of biblical faith
- . No grounds for boasting – Romans 3:27-28
- . One way of salvation for everybody – Romans 3:29-30
- . The law – upheld by faith – Romans 3:31

A DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL FAITH

- . Two good biblical definitions of faith
 - . In Romans Paul states that true faith is in God's freely offered salvation through the work of Christ and this work of the Holy Spirit in us
 - . Faith is believing that Christ is who He said He is and that He will do what He has promised to do
- . The first element of biblical faith – knowledge
 - . In order to be able to have faith in something, we need to have a knowledge of what that something is
 - . Faith without content is not faith at all
- . The second element of biblical faith – the moving of the heart
 - . The second element of faith is choosing to believe which requires a moving of the heart
 - . It is possible to have knowledge of something but choose not to believe
 - . It is also possible to have knowledge of something and choose to reject it
 - . Both the mind and the heart are involved in biblical faith
 - . When the truth received by the mind takes root in the heart, the believer is able to stand firm against the temptations that are sure to come
- . The third element of biblical faith – trust or commitment
 - . A real yielding of oneself to Christ
 - . It is the point at which we pass over the line of belonging just to ourselves and become a part of something greater than ourselves

NO GROUNDS FOR BOASTING – ROMANS 3:27-28

- . In these verses Paul has much more to say about faith
 - . Here, Paul talks of a few corollaries or implications that emerge from our faith foundation

- . Boasting comes from pride
 - . In the previous verse Paul talks about how justification by faith excludes anything we could have done on our own
 - . An in depth knowledge of the law didn't make the Israelite right by God
 - . Boasting about ones knowledge of scripture is a form of pride
 - . God considers pride to be one of mans greatest sins
 - . Pride is the ultimate sin of Satan
 - . "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God
... I will make myself like the Most High" – Isaiah 14:13-14
- . Pride in religion – the worst kind of pride
 - . Pride demonstrated through religion is a way of demonstrating God's approval of us over others, which is wrong
 - . The more demanding or rigorous our religion is the more prideful we become
- . The Gospel – boast-free
 - . Salvation by grace through faith undercuts all boasting
 - . No longer can one consider themselves in higher standing with God
 - . No longer can the Jew think of himself superior to the gentile
 - . Pride in morality, good works, can set us above people and put us sideways with God
 - . Pride in biblical knowledge can puff us up and make us feel superior to others
 - . Pride in faith can give us an elitist attitude and make us feel like we are somehow more privileged in God's eyes than someone else

ONE WAY OF SALVATION FOR EVERYBODY – ROMANS 3:29-30

- . The second implication of justification by grace through faith is that there is only one way of salvation for everybody, both Jew and gentile
 - . Paul is dealing with two different sets of prejudices as he composed these verses
 - . The Jew believed in One God but not salvation for everyone
 - . The chief theological tenet of Judaism was its monotheism
 - . There was only one true God
 - . Not only was there one true God but that God chose one true People
 - . jews believed that gentiles could be saved but they had to become Jews first
 - . The gentile had tolerance without monotheism
 - . These many diverse gods permitted and even encouraged debased moral practices

- . The glory of a properly inclusive Gospel available to the whole world
 - . The God of Israel is the One true God
 - . The justification by grace through faith was a proclamation that this God was a God who loved all humanity
 - . God offers salvation on exactly the same terms for everyone
 - . The justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone reflects the character of God who created the human race
 - . God's way of salvation is universally applicable and necessary

THE LAW - UPHOLD BY FAITH - ROMANS 3:31

- . Justification by grace through faith upholds the law rather than subverting it
 - . Paul's words in these last verses provide a clear answer to a false implication that some people might draw from Paul's teachings
 - . Some misinterpret grace as a replacement to the 'law'
 - . Some will argue that faith alone is all one needs to be right with God
 - . Our faith provides the means to do the very thing the Israelite, living under the law, couldn't do - fulfill the law
 - . God has upheld the law by seeing that the demands of the law were met in the way He provided salvation
 - . God's standard is that, as a result of our faith, we now have the ability to be Holy
 - . God's standard is that, as a result of our faith, we will now be judged based on what we know to be true and have the ability to achieve
 - . God's standard now calls for true righteousness
 - . This righteousness is an exact fulfillment of the law
 - . It is through this fulfillment that we are justified
 - . Christ fulfilled the law perfectly
 - . If we are true members of His body, then we should be a reflection of Christ
- . The heart of the Bible
 - . God has provided a righteousness of His own for men and women, a righteousness we do not possess on our own
 - . This divine righteousness is ours because of God's grace
 - . It is the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in dying for His people, redeeming them from their sin that has made this grace on God's part possible
 - . This righteousness that God has graciously provided becomes ours through simple faith

NEXT LESSON - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019: ROMANS 4