

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David

also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised...

Theme Verse - Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

The concept of an imputed, gifted, transferred righteousness is in direct conflict with our self-centeredness - we want to do it ourselves, be in control, and take credit for what we have done. Paul fully aware of the deep seated root of self. He knows the case still needs to be made that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone.

So Paul calls two heavyweights to the witness stand - Abraham the father of the Jews - friend of God, and David the the greatest king of the Jews, a man after God's own heart. To continue to make a case for "The just shall live by faith" and against a works based righteousness.

1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?

Let's take a look at Abraham, your respect Abraham, maybe you'll believe him, if you have a hard time believing me, what did the story of Abraham teach us about righteousness through works?

2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

It's seems like Paul is saying, hey, if we are looking at obedience resumes, Abraham has a few things on his that are pretty amazing to boast about. He was told at 70 yrs old by God to get up and leave

everything, and he did. He rescued Lot with 318 servants, and had bread and wine with Melchizedek after. He was told he that he and Sarah would descendants and land - become a nation. He even obeyed God, when God said I want you to sacrifice your son! But, what about Hagar and Ishmael, and the two occasions when Abraham told the local King that Sarah was his sister. Abraham never dared boast before God.

3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

As scripture tells us from Gen 15:6 - when god established his covenant with Abraham - it doesn't say Abraham obeyed God and was declared righteous - it says that Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Logizdomai - 11 times in this chapter - credited, accounted - to count as - change the status of - lease to purchase option - rent gets counted as credit toward the purchase - new status

Our justification is not God *making* us perfectly righteous, but *counting* us as perfectly righteous.

God treated Abraham as though he was living a righteous life. His faith was not righteousness, but his faith resulted in God treating him as righteous even though the righteousness is not inherent to himself.

Abraham himself was not perfect and blameless - but God treated him as though he were. It is possible to be accepted, adopted, and adored, even though we are sinful and imperfect.

4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

Work - the employer is in debt to you **Grace** - undeserved, unearned, unmerited, favor of God

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

This is who God justifies – **the ungodly** - other translations - the wicked - we are simultaneously righteous and sinful.

Saving faith is a trust transfer - stop trusting in obedience to earn salvation - we trust in God to justify the wicked/ungodly - Our hope is no longer good behavior, our hope is in believing the good one.

Trust transfer - from self to God as savior - belief in God is not enough for salvation

What are the general requirements for admission to Heaven? a) Because I have tried to be a good Christian b) Because I believe in God and try to do His will c) Because I believe in God with all my heart. Salvation by a) works b) faithplus works c) faith as a work or trust in trust Not a trust transfer -

Trust transfer - saves the irreligious and the religious from self - prevents insecurity, anxiety, fear, lack of assurance, pride, touchiness, and loss of worth in the midst of moral failure. Result is humility & confidence - that is what Abraham discovered

6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

David had a lot to boast about as well, protecting sheep, killing giants, establishing peace and a united kingdom, bringing the ark of God into Jerusalem, providing resources for a temple, hit song after hit song - But he was also a adulteress murderer, and failure in many ways as a parent.

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

Oh how happy - whole and right to the core of their being - when you live knowing that your sin is covered and not counted against you - How? Credited righteousness - though you are sinning it doesn't affect your status before God! Freedom to be honest about yourself, confident in the Lord.

9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.

And for those holding onto circumcision as being fundamental to their righteousness and identity - GOTCHA - Abraham was righteous WHEN? Before or after circumcision? Guess what Gen 15 comes before Genesis 17 - 14 years before - Why is this such a big deal?

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

Abraham was declared righteous, treated as righteous, when he wasn't circumcised! Therefore the precedent God set, was an imputed righteousness while being uncircumcised. In other words you might say Abraham before he became the father of the faith (jew and gentile), was declared righteous by God through faith as an uncircumcised gentile.

Boasting in the Lord, and the Boast of the Lord

Now in verse 3:27 and 4:2 Paul puts in contradiction faith and boasting.

In ancient times, boasting was a ritual before battle. How do you get a group soldiers, to charge with all their might and courage into near certain death? (Boast in positives of self - negatives others)

Our hearts have a need (appetite) to receive value, worth and significance. We do this in both positive and negative ways. Positively we boast about ourselves to ourselves, and we receive boasts about us from others. The other way is to speak negatively to self about others, or listen to others talk negatively about others. This is a reality and liability of every human heart. We take credit instead of give thanks for gifts of God and the results in pride.

In the book of Judges, Gideon is going to go to battle against the Midianites who were as numerous as the locusts. Gideon is saying to God, "Please help us defeat the Midianites."

Judges 7:2 And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'

The problem with every human heart is you look at your beauty, you look at your smarts, you look at your talent, you look at anything good about yourself, you look at your achievements, and you say, "I did that." You take credit for it. You see it as your accomplishment. They're gifts from God.

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

Every soul makes its boast in something. "This is why I'm valuable. This is why I'm love-worthy. This is why I'm worthy of applause, of accolades, of cheering. This is why I am worthy of praise. This is my glory. This is who I am. This is my significance. This is my value. This thing. I have accomplished this. This is mine."

This world is a battlefield of conflicting values - definitions of worth and significance - when we come in find ourselves in conflict - for confidence and defense - we boast about our strengths - mock and ridicule the opposing belief. I am a good We cheer our self or look for cheers from others

Listen , this is bad because every boast is also a roast (a taunt). Coaching story - note on the windshield - Boast is a roast.

When you take credit for the gifts God has given you, you can't help but look at others who don't have the same talent and see them as less than you, and disdain them - It leads to all kinds of destruction, breakdown, divisions, and conflicts.

Happens in church all the time - Those legalists! They don't understand the gospel. They don't understand grace. Thank goodness we're not like them. Thank goodness we're not self-righteous. I'm so thankful we don't boast in our goodness.

Hello!! We're boasting that we don't boast. We're self-righteous against the self-righteous. We're proud that we're not a proud.

The human heart will inevitably boast. It will take a gift given by the grace of God, and say, "That's because of me. That's the reason why I am love-worthy, worthy of applause, accolades, and cheering. Self-glory - boasting puffs us up in arrogance. Or beats us down with failure

We've learned of the blessedness of the gift of an imputed righteousness. Now when do we applaud people, when do we clap and cheer - when something is right, the way it should be, better than we imagined - when there is a triumph of victory, achievement, display of talent - righteousness is in a sense the applause, the honor, the reward.

Now this righteousness, in a sense, is the applause. It's the honor. It's the reward. It's the accolade, and that which you are trying to coerce out of people through your work, through your performance, through whatever, through your beauty, through your smarts, through your money. it's given to you.

In Chapter 2 Paul pointed out that the Jews boasted in their obedience to the Law, and circumcision. The Paul says in 2:28 "But the circumcision you want is the circumcision of the heart, not of the flesh, by the Spirit, not of the written code." You want the new birth, a new heart. 29.. **"Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God."**

This is mind blowing, this maybe the ultimate thing we get when we believe in Jesus Christ. He says, "Everybody else gets their praise from men, especially from those who mean the most to us. The praise of a lover is the sweetest to the soul. Makes us feel incredibly important. This is a legit need.

Here's the deal we need praise, accolade, and applause to live, but if we build our identity on self-praise or the praise of men - it is divisive and destructive to human relationships. We must build our identity, who we are on the righteousness of Christ. You've received a perfect moral record, you've been declared righteous, holy, redeemed and forgiven. But check this out - the gospel also means that you have the praise, adoration, applause, cheer, accolades of God!

There is only one kind of praise that doesn't puff up, that you cannot lose, that heals you instead of rots your soul. That is the praise of God.

When you begin to understand that in Christ you have God's applause, God's praise, God's thunderous affirmation, adoration, honor, and acclamation, by grace, through what Christ has done, not on the basis of your performance, it destroys your insecurities forever. And humbles you to the dirt. Do you live with the inner applause of God going on all the time. You need to.

When Jesus Christ was in heaven as part of the Trinity (the triune Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), he had all the praise. He had the adoration. He had the thing every heart wants, all the time:

acclamation, praise, roaring approval, love. Infinite. He came into this world where he got mocked, jeered, struck, made fun of. He was booed and mocked.

Jesus Christ willingly lost the acclamation of heaven and took the rejection we deserve so we can have what he deserved.

Jesus heard, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into eternal fire ..."

So we could hear "... Well done, good and faithful servant!, You are my beloved child in whom I am well-pleased."

Zeph 3:17 The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Neh 8:10 for the joy of the LORD is your strength

When you are absolutely convinced in your heart of God's delight in you, God's praise of you, then you don't have to worry about what anybody else thinks or says.

Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

When you tune your heart to the praise, adoration, and applause of Christ - received due to a righteousness gifted by grace through faith - the power approval, applause, praise of the world once had over you is crippled - it is crucified. The old man is roasted!

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.