

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 3:27

Paul's return to his previous discussion of the condition of both Jews and Gentiles: Neither group has the ability to save themselves; it will take an outside force to restore them to God.

Verse 26: God's plan: He offered his own sacrifice in order to deal with his wrath towards sin. "He did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

- **"Where Is Boasting?" v. 27**

"Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith."

"Boasting" implies that humans have done something for themselves – and on their own.

Paul's continuity on "grace" and God's intervention in salvation. One clear example: Ephesians 2:4-9 & Romans 3: Paul writes:

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9 not by works, so that no one can boast.**

Verse 27 of our text: "Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because

of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith.”

- **Why Deal With Boasting?**

1. Boasting implies that humans have done something about salvation for themselves – and on their own.

2. Boasting speaks to human pride; it's the outward manifestation of an inner condition.

- **The Gentile Pride:**

Romans 1:18 – “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

Although humans initially knew God, they chose to reject and ignore him – and live as if He didn't exist. That's pride that results in human boasting.

Romans 1:22: "Professing to be wise, they became fools." That is the Gentile pride -- "Professing to be wise, [we] became fools and exchanged the glory of God..."

John Piper -- “A Godward spirit of worship and gratitude is missing from most hearts because of pride. We want admiration for ourselves, not for God, and we don't want to be dependent like helpless children on God's mercy.”

- **The Jewish Pride:**

Whereas the Gentiles knew God and pretended they didn't – the Jews pretended that the Law and their pedigree exempted them from God's judgment on sin – and the possibility of eternal separation from God.

Romans 2:17ff – Rephrased:

“You call yourself a Jew ... you rely on the law and boast in God... you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law ... you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth.”

- **The implication of Grace**

1. If we are “saved by grace through faith” then all boasting is irrelevant.

2. If we must be saved by the unconditional love of God – then we cannot say we have made something of ourselves. We cannot say that, by virtue of our religious pedigree, we are superior to all others.

Paul’s other way of defining this boasting: “Putting confidence in the flesh”. Philippians 3:4-6:

“If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.”

By the time Paul had become a mature Christian – this was his new attitude: verses 7-9

“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—

the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.” Ephesians 3:7-9

- Before salvation: A “righteousness based on the law ...”
- After salvation: “Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ...”

“Where, Then, Is Boasting? “