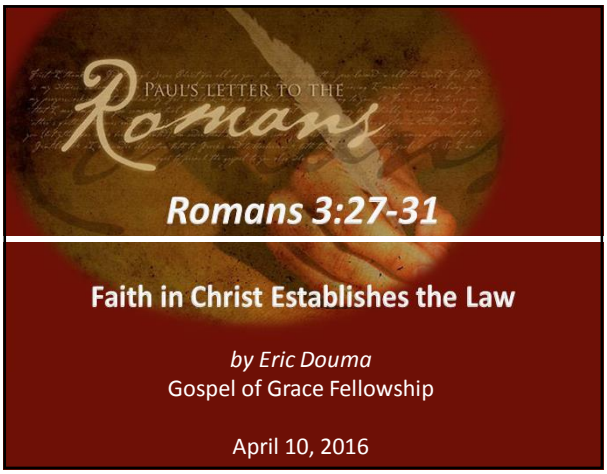

Salvation By Faith Excludes Boasting

Romans 3:27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

Law of works vs. law of faith

1. Metaphorical: law really means "principle"
2. Literal: two different approaches to the law of Moses

Romans 7:23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

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Saved By Faith Alone

Romans 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified **by faith** apart from works of the Law.

- "**we maintain**" = the apostle Paul's position
- "**Justified**" = declared righteous (imputed)
- "**by faith**" = faith is the instrumental cause of justification
- "**apart from works of the law**" = faith alone!

"As in 3:20, what is meant is not certain kinds of works, or works viewed in a certain light, but anything a person does in obedience to the law and, by extrapolation, anything a person does" (Moo).

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One God – One Salvation

Romans 3:29-30 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed **God** who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised **through faith is one**.

Paul Argues:

1. Isn't it true that there is one God over all (Deut. 6:4)?
2. Doesn't He then have one plan of salvation?
3. (Implied) Gentiles don't have the Mosaic Law!
4. God therefore justifies Jew and Gentile through faith alone.

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Christ Established The Law For Us!

Romans 3:31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

What does Paul mean that "we establish the Law?"

1. By faith: We establish the Law by being obedient to God through the power of the Holy Spirit. (righteous living)
2. By faith: We establish the Law by being "in Christ." (righteous standing)

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Applications

1. We must know that boasting about ourselves is sinful, while boasting in Christ is praiseworthy.
2. We must understand that trusting in any form of works to be righteous before God is a fool's errand!

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1. Boast Only in the Lord!

Philippians 3:4-8 …if anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; **as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.** 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ…

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1. Boast Only in the Lord!

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "**Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**"

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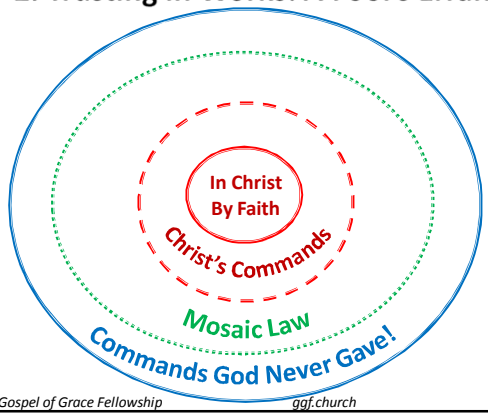
2. Trusting in Works: A Fool's Errand



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2. Trusting in Works: A Fool's Errand

Mark 7:5-9 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" 6 And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, " 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." 9 And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!

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