

05/04/22 Bible Study Review from 04/27/22

Rev. Brandon Thornton,

On last week, we began a discussion on the book of Romans.

It is my prayer always to be insightful and never to argue, confuse, or debate over the Word of God. Once you have information, it becomes your responsibility to make the decision of what you will do with it.

As Christians, our journey is made up of 3 steps:

**Justification**

Sanctification

Glorification

It is through the book of Romans that we are able to see ALL 3 Steps:

**Define Justification:** show or prove to be right or reasonable; also, to declare or make righteous in the sight of God.

We discussed there was **nothing** that “WE” can do to justify ourselves...

Justification must come through by Jesus Christ.

**By Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.**

I began last week giving a brief history on the book of Romans.

Romans was written by Paul while he was in Corinth.

He had not visited Rome but wanted to come there to preach and encourage them. (Romans 1:10,15)

He was excited because of the diversity that Rome was experiencing in their growth; both Jews and Gentiles.

(Unofficial definitions)

Jews = were the people who had been raised and reared with laws; (promised people)

Gentile = were the people from different ethnic backgrounds but had come into knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Although he wanted to come to preach and encourage them, he also wanted to come and reaffirm some things that had gotten out of control.

**HE wanted to fully establish with them there is a need for Salvation. (Rom.1:18-20)**

He addressed the gentiles first because they were out of control with their idolatry and their sin; in fact, they were encouraging sin(v32).

**As Paul is writing about the gentiles, who were not from this background, he was quick to share in Chapter 2 how the Jews were not to judge them because they were guilty as well... Guilty because they should know better!**

Jews can't judge

"You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things."

Romans 2:1 NLT

Paul shares that the Jews are guiltier. Listen to how Paul writes it:

*"You who call yourselves Jews are **relying on God's law**, and you **boast** about your special relationship with him. **You know what he wants; you know what is right** because you have been **taught his law**. You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. You think you can **instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God**. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth. Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the Scriptures say, **"The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."**"*

Romans 2:17-24 NLT

After reading this, we now walk into Chapter 3 and Paul literally says EVERYBODY IS GUILTY and NEEDS TO BE SAVED!

Chapter 3. Everybody is Guilty and needs to be saved...

"Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, **for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin**. As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous— not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."

Romans 3:9-12 NLT

**Is there any hope? HOW DO WE RECEIVE HOPE...?**

**"But now** God has shown us a way to be made right with him **without keeping the requirements of the law**, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. **We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ**. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. **For everyone has sinned; we all**

**fall short of God's glorious standard.** Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. **People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time.** God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."

Romans 3:21-26 NLT

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**Paul references the "Law and the Prophets" because it deals with the kind of faith that we must have as pertains to our Christian belief... for all have sinned...**

**We must have the faith of Abraham in Order to be saved!**

*"Obedience to the law was never the way to get to God.*

***FAITH** is and always will be the way!"*

Abraham:

"Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" **And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith."**

Genesis 15:5-6 NLT

Abram took God at His word before there was a law, (Moses receives law in exodus 32)  
There was no law

Faith is Key!

"For the Scriptures tell us, **"Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."**

Romans 4:3 NLT

"But people are counted as righteous, **not because of their work, but because of their faith in God** who forgives sinners."

Romans 4:5 NLT

The Jews believed that OUTWARD circumcision was a sign of their covenant to God and that was "WHAT" sealed salvation.  
(Old Testament)

Paul deals with it like this: Circumcision won't get you there!

“But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!”

Romans 4:10 NLT

(Old Testament reference he had faith before circumcision- Gen. 15)

*“This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you.”* Genesis 17:10-11 NLT

Timing is Everything!

(Circumcision was a sign of salvation OT)

“Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and (justified/declared/proven) him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised.

***So, Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised.*** They are counted as righteous because of their faith.”

Romans 4:11 NLT

“And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, **but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.**”

Romans 4:12 NLT

\*\*\*\*\*Not just circumcising but also have the faith...\*\*\*\*\*

### **God’s Plan Unfold**

“I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. **All the families on earth will be blessed through you.**”

Genesis 12:3 NLT

(Multiethnic family of God)

“So, the promise is received by **faith**. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, **whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.**”

Romans 4:16 NLT