

Romans

Chapter 3

Romans 3:1-2

“Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.”

The Jewish Advantage

- Paul had been building an argument that both Jews and gentiles were guilty before God and that God judges impartially regardless of a person's race or a person's cultural background.
- The question then is **what advantage has the Jew?**
- Paul says **much in everyway** but only lists one of the advantages of being Jewish here in chapter three which is that the **Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.**
- Later in chapter 9, Paul will list 8 more advantages of being Jewish: They have the **adoption**, the **glory**, the **covenants**, the **law**, the **worship**, the **promises**, the **patriarchs**, and from the Jews came **Jesus Christ** (Romans 9:4-5).

The Oracles Of God

- The Jews were entrusted with very Word of God meaning that the **Old Testament** and the **Messianic prophecies** they foretold were the very **utterances of God** given to the Jews to be past down from generation to generation.
- "...what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **Make them known to your children and your children's children**"-Deuteronomy 4:7-9

- To be **entrusted** with the very Word of God highlights the goal of God for the Jews to **teach** His Word, to **keep** His Word, and to **share** His Word.
- “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that **your way** may be **known on earth**, **your saving power among all nations**. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the **nations** be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the **nations** upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!”-**Psalm 67:1-5**
- Unfortunately, the Jewish people as a nation became prideful and began to think they were privileged for having the Words of God but did not see themselves as obligated to keep His Words in their heart.
- A person can have a Bible on the dash board of his car or on the night stand at his home but it doesn’t make him a Christian unless the Word of God is believed and impacts the core of his very being.

Romans 3:3-4

“What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, ‘That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.’”

Lack of Belief

- The oracles had been given to the Jewish nation but because they failed to believe God's Word does it mean that God is unfaithful.
- In other words, God must be responsible in some way of not communicating His word clearly enough for people to turn and believe in the gospel message and be faithful to Him in their walk.
- Man's unfaithfulness does not nullify God's faithfulness in fact our unfaithfulness only enhances His commitment to demonstrate His love and determination to show us the truth.

- God's **faithfulness** is not dependent upon man fulfilling our end of the bargain.
- God made a covenant with Abraham and when He could not find anyone greater than Himself to swear by, **He swore by Himself, Hebrew 6:13-19.**
- That is why Paul says in **2 Timothy 2:13**, that even when men are faithless God remains faithful because God **cannot deny himself** or His very nature.
- God, Who cannot lie, made a promise with himself concerning man that He will accomplish His purpose **for** man, He will accomplish His purpose **through** man, and He will accomplish His purpose **regardless** of man.

Man is the Liar

- “It is a strange, strong expression; but it is none too strong. **If God says one thing, and every man in the world says another, God is true, and all men are false. God speaks the truth, and cannot lie.** God cannot change; his word, like himself, is immutable. We are to believe God’s truth if nobody else believes it. The general consensus of opinion is nothing to a Christian. He believes God’s word, and he thinks more of that than of the universal opinion of men.”-Spurgeon, Charles
- **That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged** was David's testimony to God's faithfulness after David's own unfaithfulness.

- David had sinned against himself and his family. David had sinned against Bathsheba by stealing her honor among the people, David had sinned against Uriah for adultery with his wife and then taking his life. David had sinned against the nation of Israel because his sin caused their defeat in battle.
- Notice the prayer of David, “**Against you, you only**, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.”-Psalm 51:4
- “One thing...at the moment of his deepest distress David acknowledges that his lowly, penitential position is in itself a confession that there had been no failure in God. **David took sides with God against himself.** This must be the position of anyone who is going to be saved...So Paul repudiates with indignation the thought that there was any lack in God because of the inconstancy of man.”-Barnhouse, Donald Grey

God is Faithful

- Faithfulness is one of the attributes of God that displays his trustworthiness based on his unwavering commitment to his people and His Word.
- “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”-**Numbers 23:19**
- When the Bible speaks of God being faithful it means He is totally trustworthy. He is 100 percent perfectly faithful and can be trusted to accomplish His purposes in the world and in our lives individually.
- “LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, **plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.**”-**Isaiah 25:1**

- The Lord is faithfully accomplishing the work He began upon our heart and our soul and He is carrying that good work to its ultimate completion.
- “I am sure of this, that he who began a **good work** in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”-**Philippians 1:6**
- The **Lord** will **fulfill his purpose** for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the **work of your hands.**”-**Psalms 138:8**
- The Lord has a purpose for each and every individual believer and He is perfectly faithful to do it.

Romans 3:5-6

“But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world?”

The Unrighteousness of Man

- The Jew might say to himself, “if the unrighteous action of David gave an opportunity for God to demonstrate His righteousness towards David then how could God judge me”.
- My sinning lifestyle ultimately serves to bring God more glory. This is stupid reasoning because **God’s glory reveals my sinning lifestyle** and His **kindness** leads towards my **repentance**, i.e. **transforming** my sinful lifestyle.
- The false premise that God must be **unrighteous** then in His judgment **to inflict wrath on us** since we are fulfilling His purpose by sinning.

- The Jewish people **falsely** believed that God would save them and condemn all the nations to eternal judgment.
- Paul points out that God will not show favoritism to the Jewish people who believe that by their unfaithfulness they glorify the faithfulness of God.
- If He did so, **how could God judge the world?** (**Genesis 18:25**)
- He would be biased and not qualified to sit in judgment on all of humankind.

- "In theory, the most dramatic example of someone who might ask this question is Judas. Can you hear Judas make his case? 'Lord, I know that I betrayed Jesus, but You used it for good. In fact, if I hadn't done what I did, Jesus wouldn't have gone to the cross at all. What I did even fulfilled the Scriptures. How can You judge me at all?' The answer to Judas might go like this: 'Yes, God used your wickedness but it was still *your* wickedness. There was no good or pure motive in your heart at all. It is no credit to *you* that God brought good out of your evil. You stand guilty before God.'"-Guzick, David
- "It [the technical term '**I am speaking in human way**'] constitutes an apology for a statement which, but for the apology, would be too bold, almost blasphemous."-Daube, David
- Paul was speaking as a fallen man about a holy God so he apologized for the **human way** in which he was talking about God. As Job confessed, "I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know"-**Job 42:3**

Psalm 131

- Psalm 131 is a great prayer when questions are too complicated to be answered by our limited human understanding.
- “LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever.”-**Psalm 131**
- “Before he was weaned, David wanted God only for what he could get from God. After he was weaned, having learned that God loved him and would care for him even if it was not exactly the way he anticipated or most wanted, he came to love God for God himself.”-Boice, James Montgomery
- Trust in the faithfulness of God because, “...**the Lord is faithful**. He will **establish** you and **guard** you against the evil one.”-**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

Romans 3:7-8

“But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.”

Sinning Glorifies God

- If my lying makes God look better by showing Him to be the only perfectly truthful person in the end then why will I be **condemned** for living in a way that brings glory to God?
- Paul had been **slanderosly charged** by the Jews of teaching grace and forgiveness without obedience to the law, claiming He taught the people to **do evil that good may come**.
- The twisted doctrine of salvation that is appealing to the world that I can do **any sin I desire and God will forgive me** makes the God of the universe into the Grand enabler supporting my destructive sinful behavior leading to my destruction.

- There is not a good father in the world that desires his children to walk down a destructive path let alone leading and enabling his child towards their destruction.
- “The LORD **sets** the prisoners free; the LORD **opens** the eyes of the blind. The LORD **lifts** up those who are bowed down; the LORD **loves** the righteous. The LORD **watches** over the sojourners, he **upholds** the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.”-**Psalm 146:7b-9**
- “He has **delivered** us from the domain of darkness and **transferred** us to f the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”-**Colossians 1:13-14**
- Paul did preach forgiveness and salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works, but he also made the point that faith leads to obedience (**Rom. 1:5**).

- “Twisting the glorious free gift of God in Jesus into a supposed **license to sin** is perhaps the peak of man’s depravity. It takes the most beautiful gift of God and perverts it and mocks it. This twisting is so sinful Paul saves it for last, because it is beyond the depravity of the pagan (**Romans 1:24-32**), beyond the hypocrisy of the moralist (**Romans 2:1-5**), and beyond the false confidence of the Jew (**Romans 2:17-29**).”-Guzik, David
- “Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap”.-**Galatians 6:7**

Romans 3:9-18

“What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

‘None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.’”

Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

All of Mankind is Guilty

- Paul has thus far been making the point that all people both Jews and Gentiles are deserving of God's wrath and judgment.
- Paul is going to make his final point citing numerous Scriptural passages for proof that all of mankind is guilty before a holy God.
- “As long as we cling to our own selves and think that there is even a shred of righteousness in ourselves that could satisfy the demands of a holy God, there is no possibility of salvation for us.”-Barnhouse, Donald Grey
- Notice the number of times the the words **all, no one, not even one** that the Scripture uses to drive the last nail into man’s spiritual house of glass shattering any hope within ourselves for salvation.



“As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus asked him. **‘No one is good except God alone.’**” -Mark 10:17-18

If it were true that “people are truly good at heart” then there would not be a need for Jesus since good people by nature could save themselves.

- The Bible is perfectly clear about the condition of our sinful heart:
 - “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every** intention of the thoughts of his **heart** was only evil **continually**.” -Genesis 6:5
 - “The **heart** is deceitful above all things, and **desperately sick**; who can understand it?” -Jeremiah 17:9
 - “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the **heart**, and this defiles a person. For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ” -Matthew 15:18-19

- “If they sin against you for there is **no one** who does not sin”-**2 Kings 8:46a**
- “There is certainly **no one** righteous on the earth who does good and never sins.”-**Ecclesiastes 7:20**
- “for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”-**Romans 3:23**
- “**Who can say**, ‘I have made my **heart** pure; I am clean from my sin?’”-**Proverbs 20:9**
- “If **we say** we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ”-**1 John 1:8**
- “If **we say** we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”-**1 John 1:10**

What Then?

- **What then?** introduces a conclusion to the argument that all people are guilty before God.
- **Are Jews any better off?** The answer by the Holy Spirit through Paul is an emphatic and crystal clear: **No, not at all.**
- Any advantage that the Jewish people had and that the believer today has are all gifts of God’s sovereign grace **without any merit of our own.**
- The belief that a person is righteous by the works he performs and because of those works God owes him salvation is a delusion since everyone is **under sin.**

- All of mankind is **under sin** which means being under its **domination** and **condemnation**.
- The redemptive solution presented to man through the Cross: **Condemnation** needs **justification** and **forgiveness of sins**; **Domination** needs **deliverance** from the power of sin.
- "... the problem with people is not just that they **commit** sins; their problem is that they are **enslaved** to sin."-Moo, Douglas
- "He is regarding sin as a tyrant ruler, so that sinners are 'under' it (Jerusalem Bible, '**under sin's dominion**'); they cannot break free."-Morris, Leon

- Sin is mankind's disease and we are under it's thumb to do as it wills and human will power is useless against sin's authority.
- "Don't handle, don't taste, don't touch"? All these regulations refer to what is destined to perish by being used up; they are human commands and doctrines. Although these have a reputation for wisdom by promoting self-made religion, false humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are **not of any value** in curbing self-indulgence"-**Colossians 2:21-23**
- "I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the **law of sin** that **dwells** in my members."-**Romans 7:23**

- Paul tells us in **Romans 7:23**, that there is a **law of sin** living inside of him that has authority over his life.
- Paul is using the word **law** to describe the power, the authority, and the control that sin exercises in the heart of mankind.
- There are two applications for the word law in the Scriptures:
 1. Law can and often refers to a **moral order or code** by which man is to conduct his life. It usually involves a **requirement** for action, i.e., Honor your father and mother, do not trespass, do not speed, which has an end **consequence** resulting in either **reward or punishment**.
 2. Law also speaks of the **laws of nature**, gravity for instance is a law that bends things in its direction. Gravity is not law as an idea but a **force** that can make objects **obey its will**. The Law of indwelling sin is a bully.

- “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the **record of debt** that stood against us with its **legal demands**. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”-**Colossians 2:13-14**
- Justification dealt with man’s condemnation. The Holy Spirit is dealing with the dominion of sin by the sanctification process through grace.
- The Law gave sin authority, **For apart from the law, sin lies dead (Romans 7:8b)**.
- Jesus fulfilled the Law, taking away the legal rule of sin and by doing so destroyed sin’s dominion.

No One Is Righteous

- Paul quotes five passages from the **Book of Psalms** and one passage from the **book of Isaiah** affirming the universality of sin and showing how much sin has made inroads into all areas of man's individual life and society as a whole.
- These quotations from Psalms, **14:1-3; 5:9, 140:3, 10:7 and 36:1 and from Isaiah 59:7-8** are all used to support Paul's opening premise: **None is righteous, no, not one**
- "When God finds none righteous, it is because there are **none**. It isn't as if there were some and God couldn't see them. There has never been a **truly righteous** man apart from Jesus Christ. 'Even Adam was not righteous: he was innocent, not knowing good and evil.'" -Newell, William

No One Understands

- The Fall of man created a blindness in man's understanding and reasoning capabilities.
- "They are **darkened in their understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart." -**Ephesians 4:18**
- The self centeredness of humanity directs all of our attention upon what we think we know and yet we are blind to God's truth and ultimate reality.
- Man has gone astray due their **darkened understanding** created by a **hardness of heart**. A stubborn refusal to understand God and Who He is based upon the Biblical revelation **alienates** man from the life of God.

No One Seeks God

- Sin has blinded man to the reality of God, **no one seeks for God**, therefore it is essential for God to seek for sinful man.
- “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **even when** we were **dead** in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ”-**Ephesians 2:4-5**
- No man really wants to find God rather we are running and hiding from our guilt and shame in all we do.
- God in His mercy and love calls out to man with a deep concern for man and his position before Him.
- “Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I **called**, was there none to answer?”-**Isaiah 50:2**

- “for the Son of Man has come **to seek** and to save that which was lost.”-**Luke 19:10**
- **Luke 19:10**, demonstrates that God is a merciful, a gracious, and a compassionate God.
- God in Jesus Christ loves man and provides righteousness for him even when man is at his worst and lost to Him.
- “God doesn’t ask questions because He needs information. Being God, He knows everything. Rather, He asks questions for our good, to give us the opportunity to face facts, to be honest, and confess our sins... [When God is seeking for man it is] like a brokenhearted father speaking in love to his wayward children.”-Wiersbe, Warren

Romans 3:19-20

“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

The Purpose of the Law

- The first part of verse 19, is speaking to the Jews who were given the law and are therefore **under the law** or obligated to keep the whole law.
- The second part of verse 19, is speaking to the rest of the world who are **accountable to God** so that **every mouth may be stopped**.
- The Jewish people took every passage of the Old Testament describing evil done apart from the law and applied it only to the Gentiles but not to themselves.
- The Law wasn't given to make men righteous because by the **works of the law no human being will be justified**.
- The purpose of the law was to give man a **knowledge of sin**.
- “The purpose of the **Law** was not to provide people with a series of steps that would lead them to heaven. It was to **expose their inability to merit heaven**”.-Constable, Thomas

Romans 3:21-23

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

The Righteousness of God

- Righteousness does not come from the works of the law, righteousness is **manifested apart from the law**.
- Now Paul says, there is a righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
- This is the very heart of the gospel that has been revealed from heaven (**1:16**) and **the Prophets bear witness to it** that God is not counting man's sin against him but has made him righteous through faith in Jesus.
















Salvation History through the Bible

- In the Garden after the Fall God sacrificed a lamb for Adam and Eve individually.
- The Lord God made coats of skins for Adam and for his wife, and clothed them.”-**Genesis 3:21**
- **God acting as their Priest** made the first blood sacrifice to Himself by the killing of an animal to cover the sin of man.
- During the period of the Exodus God instructed the people to sacrifice a lamb for each family household.
- “Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, **a lamb for a household**.”-**Exodus 12:3**

- Priests were commissioned to make a sacrifice for the nation.
- “This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make **atonement** for the children of Israel once a year because of all their sins. -**Leviticus 16:34**
- “These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”-**Colossians 2:17**
- When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming he said: “Behold! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!”-**John 1:29**
- **Salvation has always been and will always be through Jesus by faith, plus nothing.**
- “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”-**2 Timothy 1:9-10**

The Glory of God

- The **glory of God** refers to the outward manifestation of Who God is. God's glory embraces the magnitude, the beauty, and the perfection of all that He is.
- “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”- **Deuteronomy 32:4**
- When the Bible says that, **the Lord is one** it means that God is perfect and flawless in both His essence and His ways.
- God will not be fair today and unfair tomorrow or good today and evil tomorrow.
- God is Who He is in the most complete and pure way possible always and forever.

Clarity & Color chart, value diamonds described by viewing with naked eye only										
IF	Vvs1	Vvs2	Vs1	Vs2	SI1	SI2	SI3	I1	I2	I3
										
No flaws Perfect diamond (Rare & very very very expensive)	Nearly Perfect almost no visible flaws under 10x & none visible (Extremely expensive & rare)	Visible crystals under 10x magnification & possible to see if you know location (Very expensive, near rare)	Possible visible crystal inclusions to visible crystal inclusions to eye without magnification (Best buy value)	Visible natural crystal characteristic inclusions without magnification (Great value)						
										
D E F colorless	G H I J near colorless	K L M taint yellow	N O P Q R very light yellow	S T U V X Y Z light yellow						

- A diamond is a good illustration for God being flawless. When experts say a diamond is without flaws they mean it contains no variation in grain, no combination of colors, and it contains no cracks-it is one thing only.
- “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is **no variation or shadow due to change.**”-James 1:17

Falling Short

- God's glory and perfection is **the standard** we are to achieve of which, because of **sin**, we fall short.
- Matthew Henry put it this way 300 years ago, "...as the archer comes short of the mark, as the runner comes short of the prize..."
- Sin literally means to **miss the mark**.
- Every person that has ever lived falls short for **there is no distinction** but every person can be **justified by his grace as a gift**.
- "The harlot, the liar, the murderer, are short of it; but so are you. Perhaps they stand at the bottom of a mine, and you on the crest of an Alp; but you are as little able to touch the stars as they."-Moule, H.C.G.

Romans 3:24-26

“and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Justified, Redemption, Propitiation

- The words **justified** and **righteousness** are interchangeable in these verses in the original Greek text using the word *dikaioō*.
- **Justification** defines our legal problem with sin before God.
- **Redemption** defines our purchase from the slave market by the blood of Jesus.
- **Propitiation** defines the sacrificial appeasement required by God.
- **Sanctification** defines the moment by moment working upon our heart by the Holy Spirit to mold us into the image of Jesus.
- "Do not confuse justification and sanctification. Sanctification is the process whereby God makes the believer more and more like Christ. Sanctification may change from day to day. Justification never changes. When the sinner trusts Christ, God declares him righteous, and that declaration will never be repealed. God looks on us and deals with us as though we had never sinned at all!"-Wiersbe, Warren

Jesus Is Our Propitiation

- There are only two options:
 1. A person can stand before the holy God of the universe and present his works before Him on his own (**Revelation 20:11-15**)
 2. A person can stand before the holy God of the universe and let Jesus advocate on his behalf.
- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."-**2 Corinthians 5:21**
- The key words are **propitiation by his blood**. **Before Jesus**, the offering was made to cover sin, but **after Jesus' death** and resurrection our sins now have been not only **covered but made void**.
- "This is the effect of the shed blood of Christ: it has satisfied all Divine claims against us, and has redeemed us from sin unto God, separating us unto God forever with an absolute, infinite tie."-Newell

Just and Justifier

- Jesus, **by His blood**, was a **propitiation** for us.
- “God appeases his **own** holy wrath in the **cross of Christ** in order that the purpose of **his love** to lost men may be accomplished in accordance with and to vindication of all perfections that constitute his glory”- Murray, John
- In other words, Jesus was judged in our place, so that the Father could **show His righteousness** in judgment against sin, all the while sparing man who deserves the judgment.

- God, Himself, is the Author and Perfecter of the **whole work** of redemption.
- God forged His plan before time began. (**2 Timothy 1:9**)
- God made the first sacrifice for Adam and the last and perfect sacrifice of offering Himself through the Son. (**Genesis 3:21; Hebrews 10:14**)
- “For **God was in Christ**, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them.”-**2 Corinthians 5:19**
- **Faith** is trusting in the complete work of God in Christ for salvation.

The Way Of Faith

- Faith is the **opposite** of walking by our own understanding.- (Proverbs 3:5)
- Faith is not **mentally consenting** to the truth of something because when it's only in our head it's not faith – it's knowledge. **Faith resides not in the head, but in the heart. -** (Romans 10:10)
- Faith is a perpetual dependence upon the Lord. **A moment-by-moment reliance of our trust in God and Him alone. -** (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- Faith is an **active trust in the goodness of Lord which then expresses itself in loyalty to His will. -** (Psalm 143:10)

- Faith means that we put our **total trust** in God's Word with **complete surrender** to what He has promised.- (1 Corinthians 1:9; Hebrews 10:23)
- Faith is to **believe God** and not man and his traditions.- (Mark 7:13)
- Faith is not "**what** you believe? But "**whom** do you believe?"- (Romans 3:26)
- "The man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking **at** himself, and no longer looking **to** himself. He no longer looks at anything he once **was**. He does not look at what he is **now**. He does not look at what he hopes to **be**...He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His **finished work**, and rests on that alone."-Lloyd-Jones, Martyn

Romans 3:27-31

“Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,

Since God is one, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.”

Boasting

- **Boasting** is to declare with exaggeration and excessive pride, especially about oneself.
- People will usually **boast** in what gives them confidence and self worth and ultimately defines them.
- Faith **excludes boasting** because there is nothing that we can do that brings our righteousness that we can boast.
- If we are going to receive Jesus then we must give up **boasting**.
- “We only exclude boasting when we realize our best achievements have done nothing to justify us! To boast in them is like a drowning man clutching a fistful of hundred-dollar bills and shouting: ‘I’m O.K. I’ve got money!’”-Keller, Timothy

- “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, but 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.”- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- “But far be it from me to **boast** except in the **cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”-Galatians 6:14
- Believers by faith know that they are saved wholly and completely through the work of Jesus upon the cross.
- Believers do not take any credit for their position and standing with God nor any credit for the blessings we receive by grace from Him.

Law of Faith

- There has been and there is only one way to God and that is being **justified by faith apart from works of the law**.
- Jesus never proclaimed the law didn't matter but in fact stressed the importance of keeping the whole law. It must be kept and for those in Christ it has been.
- Jesus fulfilled the law on our behalf so that we don't have to live in the perfection of the law but receive that perfection through faith in Jesus.
- "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be **fulfilled in us**..."- **Romans 8:3-4a**

Faith was in the Beginning

- Adam and Eve were innocent living in the perfect, provisional, and protective environment of the garden.
- The **test** for Adam was perfect obedience in faith to God's word to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- The **failure** was disobedience to believe God's Word.
- The **judgment** was spiritual and physical death.
- The **way** of salvation provided by God was the slaying of an animal sacrifice.

Faith is Required Today

- Man is to believe that all have sinned and need salvation from God.
- The test for mankind today is to believe in Jesus for salvation.
- The failure for mankind is not to believe God's word about the work of Jesus.
- The judgment is spiritual and physical death resulting in eternal judgment.
- The way of salvation is provided by God through the death of Jesus upon the Cross by faith.
- "And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**" -Luke 24:25-27

One God

- If God is truly God then He is the God of everything and everyone.
- The gospel upholds the perfect standards that the law requires and the gospel is for the whole world.
- Justification is available to both the Jew and the Gentile and it is also received the same way by both the Jew and the Gentile.
- The one God justifies both the Jew and the Gentile and He also justifies them in the same way: **by faith... through faith.- (Romans 3:28,30)**
- The gospel frees us to uphold the law without fear of failure or condemnation since the One Who lives in us and the One Who makes intercession for us fulfilled it for us!