

“Why Faith?”
Romans 3:27-31

Introduction:

1. This Morning - We Come To The End:
 - Of One Of The Most Remarkable Chapters:
 - In All Of The Bible:
 - Romans 3!
 - So - Please Turn There With Me:
 - In Your Bibles - To:
 - Romans 3!
 - It Is Remarkable:
 - Because It Clearly Establishes:
 - The Gospel - The Good News Of Jesus Christ:
 - As Salvation & Justification:
 - By Faith Alone!
2. And - In The Last Several Verses:
 - Of This Chapter:
 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Helps Answer The Question:
 - “Why?”
 - Like:
 - **Why Justification?**
 - Why Would God:
 - Ever Even Provide:
 - “Justification” - That Is - A Right Standing & Relationship With Him:
 - For Ungodly Sinners?
 - Well - In 3:25-26:
 - Which We Looked At Last Sunday:
 - He Tells Us Why!
 - It Was To:
 - Confirm & Clarify & Communicate:
 - His Own Righteousness!
3. But Then - The Question Lingers:
 - **Why Faith?**
 - Have You Ever Wondered:
 - **Why** God Would Offer All Of The Blessings:
 - Of The Gospel:
 - To Sinners Like You & Like Me:
 - Through Faith?
 - And Not - Faith - *Plus* Something Else!
 - But - Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - And - Faith Alone!
4. Well - In The Last Four Verses:
 - Of This Remarkable Chapter:
 - The Apostle Paul Answers Three More:
 - Questions & Concerns:
 - About Faith In The Gospel!
 - Let’s Look At Those Questions Together:
 - 3:27-31 - “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. / Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. / Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: / Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. / Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law!”
5. Now - The Questions Posed In These Verses:
 - Are Not Skeptical Questions:
 - Like The Ones Paul Addressed:
 - At The Beginning Of This Chapter!

- No - These Appear To Be:
 - Legitimate Questions!
 - Questions Posed From:
 - An Honest & A Searching Heart!
- Because - God's Ways:
 - Really Are So Very Different:
 - Than Our Own Ways!
 - And - God's Thoughts:
 - Are Really Higher:
 - Than Our Thoughts! (Isaiah 55:9)
- So - These Kinds Of Questions:
 - Can & Ought To Be Answered:
 - With Patience & With Grace!
 - And That's What Paul Does Here!

5. Justification By Faith Is The Only Way Of Salvation:

- Because Faith Is The Only Way:
 - To Bring About The True:
 - Honor & Hope & Harmony:
 - Of The Gospel!
- So - Let's Look At:
 - These Three Questions:
 - Along With Their Answers:
 - To Help Us See Even More:
 - ***"Why Faith!"***

* The First Question We Come To In 3:27 Is This:

1. ***What About The Labor?***

- That Is - What About:
 - All The Labor & Effort & Work:
 - That The Jews Were Taught:
 - There Entire Life:
 - Was Necessary To Please God & To Have A Right Relationship With Him?
 - Because - If Justification Is By Faith Alone:
 - The Question Comes To Mind:
 - 3:27 - "Where Is Boasting Then?"
 - So - Here Is A Legitimate Question And A Legitimate:
- Concern About Boasting!
 - Now - At First - We Think:
 - How Can This Be A Legitimate Question?
 - Isn't Boasting Wrong?
 - Well - From A Jewish Perspective:
 - "Boasting" Was Something Very Common & Ordinary:
 - And - At Times - Even Necessary!
 - They Would "Boast" & "Glory" In:
 - Their Historic Connection With God:
 - As The Very Basis Of Their Relationship With Him!
 - It's Kind Of What Like Paul Did:
 - In Philippians 3:4-6 - When He Gave His Jewish Pedigree - When He Wrote:
 - "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: / Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; / Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless!"
 - So - This Kind Of "Boasting" Was Very Important:
 - For The Jew!
 - It Was About:
 - ***Who*** They Were & ***What*** They Did!
 - And So - This Was A Very:

- Legitimate Concern:
 - Especially For The A Jew!
 - But - How Does Paul Answer This Question?
 - He Calls For The Absolute:
- Cessation Of Boasting!
 - 3:27 - "Where Is Boasting Then? It Is Excluded!"
 - The Word Translated "Excluded" Here:
 - Means To "Shut Out" Entirely!
 - To Slam The Door On Boasting & To Keep It Out! **IE:** Like Trying To Close The Door In A Storm!
 - You See - There Is:
 - "No Room At The Inn" Of The Gospel:
 - For Any Kind Of:
 - Self-Promotion Or Self- Righteousness!
 - Neither Your Pedigree - Nor:
 - Your Performance:
 - Can Ever Be The Basis:
 - Of Your Relationship With God!
 - Because - It's A Matter Of Faith:
 - Not Your Labor!
 - This Is Why Paul Adds In 3:27:
 - "By What Law? [Or Principle]? Of Works? Nay: But By The Law [Principle] Of Faith!"
 - You See - Any:
 - "Law . . . Of Works" - Will:
 - Naturally, Include Boasting!
 - In *Who* You Are!
 - In *What* You Do!
 - But - This Is Contrary:
 - To The Gospel!
 - Even As We Are Told In Ephesians 2:8-9:
 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: / Not of works, lest any man should *boast!*"
 - When You Are Saved:
 - By Faith & By Faith Alone:
 - It Leaves No Room:
 - For Boasting!
 - Isn't This Too:
 - What Paul Describes Back In Philippians:
 - After He Gave His Impressive Pedigree As A Jew?
 - Remember How He Felt About:
 - All His Previous "Boasting?"
 - Philippians 3:7-9:
 - "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. / Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, / And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith!"
 - So - Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - Excludes & Shuts Out:
 - Any Boasting Or Glorifying:
 - In Yourself!
 - And - That Is Why:
 - In 3:28 - Paul Adds This:
- Conclusion About Boasting!
 - 3:28 - "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law!"
 - All That Is Necessary For Justification:
 - By God & Before God:

- Is Faith!
- And - How Does Faith Justify You?
 - As William Shedd Once Described It:
 - “Faith Justifies In The Same Sense That Eating Nourishes! Its Not The Act Of [Eating], But The Food That Sustains Life! And, It Is Not The Act Of Believing, But Christ’s Death Which Delivers From The Condemnation Of The Law!”
- So - The Faith That Justifies:
 - Is The Faith That Rests In Jesus Christ!
 - As Seen Throughout Romans 3!
 - A Faith:
 - In Who **Jesus** Is!
 - Not Boasting:
 - In Who **You** Are!
 - And - A Faith:
 - In What **Jesus** Did!
 - Not Boasting:
 - In What **You** Do!
- So - When It Comes To The Question:
 - About Your Labor:
 - ***It Is Justification By Faith:***
 - ***That Brings Real Honor To God!***
 - Because:
 - Labor & Works:
 - Have Absolutely Nothing To Do:
 - With Your Justification & Right Standing Before God!
 - So Now:
 - There’s Nothing To Boast About:
 - Or To Glory In:
 - Except In Jesus Christ & Him Crucified!
 - Even As Paul Wrote:
 - In 1 Corinthians 1:31 - “He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord!”
 - When You Are Justified By Faith:
 - It Means That God Receives All The Credit, All The Glory, And All The Honor!
 - For He Alone Is Worthy!
 - If You Are Trusting In Jesus Today:
 - Does This Mark Your Faith & Your Life?
 - Not Boasting In Yourself:
 - But In Him?

* But - There’s Another Question We Come To In 3:29 - And That Is:

2. What About The Lord?

- That Is - What About:
 - The Special Relationship:
 - That The Jews Were Taught:
 - They Had With God?
 - Weren’t They God’s Chosen People?
 - Wasn’t There A Special Bond & Connection Between Abraham & Isaac & Jacob & God?
 - This Too Is A Legitimate Question:
 - Since The World-Wide Reach Of The Gospel:
 - Had Already Been Established!
 - So - Both Jews & Gentiles Might Wonder About:
- The Exclusive Nature:
 - Of God’s Relationship With Man!
 - 3:29 - “Is He The God Of The Jews Only?”
 - Again - The Jews Believed:
 - That They Alone Had:

- An Exclusive, Special Relationship:
 - With The One True God!
- And - In Order For:
 - Anyone Else To Experience That Relationship:
 - And God's Blessing:
 - They Needed To Join With:
 - Them! The People Of God!
 - Perhaps They Had Forgotten:
 - That God Promised To Abraham:
 - "In Thy Seed Shall *All* The Nations Of The Earth Be Blessed!" (Genesis 26:4)
 - And So:
- The Extensive Nature:
 - Of That Relationship:
 - Is Revealed In The Rest Of:
 - 3:29 - "Is He Not Also [The God] Of The Gentiles?"
 - Paul's Answer To This Question:
 - Is Clear & Concise!
 - "Yes, Of The Gentiles Also!"
 - But - How Can This Be?
 - Because - It Is *Faith*:
 - That *Confirms*:
 - The Extensive Nature:
 - Of God's Relationship With Man!
 - It's Not About:
 - Whether You Are A Jew:
 - Or Whether You Are A Gentile!
 - Instead:
- The Equal Nature:
 - Of This Relationship Is Expressed In:
 - 3:30 - "Seeing It Is One God, Which Shall Justify The Circumcision By Faith, And Uncircumcision Through Faith!"
 - One Of The Great & Primary Truths:
 - Held By The Jews:
 - Is Found In Deuteronomy 6:4 - Known As The "Great Shema" - For The First Word - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD!"
 - There Is Only One True God!
 - And So - He *Must* Be:
 - The God Of:
 - Both Jews & Gentiles:
 - Whether They Know Him Or Not!
 - And - Since There Is Only:
 - *One God* - There Can Only Be:
 - *One Way*:
 - To Have A Relationship:
 - With Him!
 - And That Is:
 - Through Faith!
 - Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - So - When It Comes To The Question:
 - About Your Relationship With The Lord:
 - *It Is Justification By Faith:*
 - *That Brings Real Hope To Sinners!*
 - Because:
 - For The Jew:
 - The Only *Condition*:
 - Required To Be Justified By God:
 - Is Faith!
 - And "By Faith" Alone!

- And - For The Gentile:
 - The Only **Connection**:
 - Required To Be Justified By God:
 - Is Also Faith!
 - “Through” The Same “Faith!”
- And It Is This One Faith:
 - That Unifies Both Jew & Gentile:
 - Into The Church - The Body Of Christ!
 - And So Now - In Christ:
 - “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; / One Lord, one faith, one baptism, / One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all!” (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- Are You Now Promoting & Sharing This Truth?
 - Of “Justification By Faith?”
 - Because - It Is An Open Invitation:
 - To Anyone & To Everyone!
- No Matter Who They Are & No Matter Where They Live!

* But - There’s A Third Question We Find In 3:31 - And That Is:

3. **What About The Law?**

- That Is - What About:
 - That Special Revelation From God:
 - Given To The Children Of Israel:
 - On Mt. Sinai - So Many Years Ago?
 - So - We Have Another:
 - Legitimate Question & Concern:
 - About:
- The Emptiness Of The Law!
 - 3:31 - “Do We Then Make Void The Law Through Faith?”
 - Does This Principle Of Justification By Faith:
 - Invalidate & De-Value:
 - The Law Of God?
 - After All - When God Gave:
 - His Law To Moses:
 - It Was Engraved:
 - On Tablets Of Stone:
 - By God’s Own Finger!
 - Does Faith Now Mean:
 - That God’s Law:
 - Was Arbitrary?
 - Does Faith Mean:
 - That God’s Law:
 - Was Frivolous?
 - Does Faith Mean:
 - That God’s Law:
 - Was Unnecessary?
 - You Can See The Concern:
 - For The Jew!
 - After **All** They Were Taught:
 - And After **How** They All Lived!
 - But - Paul Answers:
 - Instead Of Rendering The Law Of God:
 - Empty - It - Provides:
- The Establishment Of The Law!
 - 3:31b - “God Forbid – Absolutely Not – Yea – Instead – We Establish The Law!”
 - To “Establish” Here Means:
 - To Make Something That Was Unstable:
 - Firm!

- **IE:** Have You Ever Tried To Climb A Ladder That Was Shaky & Unstable? Not A Good Feeling! A Couple Of Years Ago - I Needed To Paint Our Flag-Pole - But To Do So - I Needed To Climb A Tall Ladder - Which Brother Ron Brought Over! I Tried Climbing - But Could Only Get Half-Way - Because It Started Shaking All Over The Place! And So Did I! I Realized My Limitation, And Came Back Down!
 - This Is What The Law Of God Was Designed To Do! It Was Never Meant To Be A Stepping-Stool To Heaven - Because Noone - *Except One* - Ever Has Or Ever Could Keep The Law Of God In Its Entirety!
 - Instead - The Law Of God Was Designed To Be A An Obstacle In The Path Of Life! To Bring Conviction & Condemnation For Sin!
 - So - Instead Of Trying To Use The Law To Boost Yourself Up To God - Which You Can't Do Even If You Try!
 - It Brings You To The Foot Of The Cross Of Jesus Christ - Where You Can Only Cry Out - "God Be Merciful To Me A Sinner!" (Luke 18:13)
 - And - It Is **Faith** That Will Lay Hold:
 - On The Person & Work Of Jesus Christ:
 - And Will Find In Him:
 - All The Demands Of God's Justice - That You Deserve:
 - Fully, Finally, & Forever Met!
 - You See - If Your Justification & Relationship:
 - With God - Depended On Keeping The Law:
 - Then - You Have No Hope!
 - If You Try - You Will Keep On:
 - Teetering & Tottering:
 - Yet - Still Fall Far, Far "Short Of The Glory Of God!" (3:23)
 - But - Because God Will Justify You:
 - By Faith Alone - In Jesus Christ:
 - It Brings Real Harmony:
 - To God's Law, God's Word:
 - And God's Eternal Plan!

Conclusion:

1. So - "Why Faith?"
 - Because - Justification By Faith:
 - Is The Only Way:
 - That Brings:
 - Real Honor To God!
 - Real Hope For Sinners!
 - And - Real Harmony With God's Law!
 - And - Because:
 - Hebrews 11:6 - "Without Faith It Is Impossible To Please Him!"
2. Now - There Is & Will Be:
 - Fruit To Your Faith:
 - If Your Faith Rests In Jesus Christ!
 - But - That Is Not What Paul:
 - Is Dealing With Just Yet!
 - Before Sanctification:
 - There Must Be Justification!
 - And Justification:
 - Is By Faith:
 - And By Faith Alone:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - 3. So - For Now:
 - When You Feel Yourself:
 - To Be Teetering & Tottering:
 - In Your Relationship With:
 - And In Your Fellowship With:
 - God - Which Is A Very Common Experience - Even For True Christians!

- I Want To Leave You With The Words:

- Of William Newell:

- "On Seeing Your Failures, You Should Say, I Am Nothing But A Failure! But God Is Dealing With Me On Another Principle Altogether Than My Works, Good Or Bad! A Principle Not Involving My Works, But Based On Only The Work Of Christ For Me!"

- "I Am Anxious, Indeed, To Be Pleasing To God And To Be Filled With His Spirit! But I Am Not Justified, Or Accounted Righteous, By These Things!"

4. So - Remember Romans 3:28:

- "Therefore We Conclude That A Man Is Justified By Faith – Alone – As Martin Luther Translated It – Without The Deeds Of The Law!"

* Close In Prayer.

* Have You Been Justified By God – By Faith Alone In Jesus Christ?

* Are You Now Boasting In The Lord & Giving Him The Glory He Is Due?

Grace Baptist Church

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace

www.growatgrace.org

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com