

ROMANS STUDY

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GRACE.
THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

Romans 3:27-31

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Sunday, February 6, 2022

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

The Direction Of Faith – Part 1

The Gospel of Grace, The Foundation of New Testament Theology
According to Grace By The Argumentation of the Apostle Paul

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER: **Grace, Faith, Works, Paul, Law, The Spiritual vs. The Carnal,**

Romans 3:27-31

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

I thought I was about to witness a disaster.

I was about 13 years old, and I was doing what I usually did on a summer day here in SoCal, if I wasn't at the beach, I would be hanging around one of our local airports back then – waiting & watching for an airplane to take off or land at either Santa Ana Airport or Meadowlark Airport in Huntington Beach.

I remember what was a particularly breezy even windy day – that what concerned me was that a pilot had the plane that was about to take off turn and point that plane into the wind. Why would the pilot do that?

Should he be pointing the plane with the wind,
isn't it easier to go with the wind?

It wasn't until I studied to get my own pilots license as a little Jack that I learned – the greater resistance or airflow over the wings the greater the lift – and that the greater the "opposing wind" is what made it easier to take-off.

Regarding One Direction storms and weather: James warns us not to be like a man who is driven by the wind tossed without direction.

Weathervanes and Windsock Point into the “Direction of the Wind”
An Ane’mo’meter is how you measure wind direction.

Here in Southern California, we have what is called the Santa Ana Winds -- but I find it interesting to point out that in Northern California they’re called the Diablo Winds or Satan’s Wind which blow from Sacramento to San Francisco and out to sea.

The direction of the wind matters / even more importantly is the fact that the direction of your faith matters, and it matters eternally.

Last Week Chapter 3:21-26

But Now...

The Direction Of Faith

1.) Always directs away from us	vs. 27-28
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The Direction Of Faith Always Directs Away From Us

1a.) Faith directs us away from pride	vs. 27a
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Verse 27a

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? No,

boasting grk: **kauchesis**
self-exultation, self-confidence, self-reason, self-appreciation,
self-applause,

C.S. Lewis,

“There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular and no-fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves than pride. The more we have it ourselves the more we dislike it in others - that is the vice of pride.” Lewis continues. *Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking, but they are not. We are proud of being richer, or clever, or better looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, or clever, or good looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest.”* Again, “You might think that pride is

exhibited in the man who desires to be the big noise at the party or the pretty young woman who desires to stand out in the crowd, but that is simply not so. Pride – at its worse is the pride found in religion. Religion - not true Christianity, but religion in the generic sense is the ultimate setting for the very worst expression of pride. For it is in religion alone that we are able to claim that God, and not mere human beings, sets his approval on us as superior to other human beings. Moreover, the more demanding or rigorous our religion is the more prideful we become.

- Mere Christianity, Oxford University, 1944

excluded grk: ekkleio

to shut out, to be turned away, to be sent away or denied.

Philippians 3:4-8b

Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

no grk: ouchi

NO as in not at all, to fail. (The word implies having failed before trying)

It is impossible to separate a works based, legalistic relationship with God from pride and boasting. Wherever you find legalism you will find boasting that emanates from religious pride or self-righteousness.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

Verse 27a

Romans 3:27a

Where is boasting then? It is excluded.

Our difficulties and sufferings as Christians in this life has a profound purpose. It translates into deep dependency upon God.

Acts 20:23-24

The Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**The Direction Of Faith
Always Directs Away From Us**

1b.) Faith directs us away from depression

vs. 27b

Verse 27b

but by the law of faith.

Paul introduces a New (Old) Law – The Law of Faith.

(new to our ears – but eternal with God)

Every Single Old Testament Believer
Experienced “an almost” Born Again Relationship with God.

Which is why in the book of Hebrews Chapter 11,
there is The Hall of Faith. The Men and Women of God who lived out
the lifestyles of the Righteous and Faithful.

(every single one of them were just like us – prone to fits of weakness)

If we’re not careful - even the passages of scripture can become depressing.

We can become overwhelmed by these All Stars of the Faith.

We mustn’t allow that - we need to be inspired by them –
not condemned.

Truth Is Church;
“When God touches a life,
He must often first break the heart.”

1 John 3:20-21

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

Romans 15:4 NLT

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

Ephesians 2:5-10

For even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Tragically many people today are under the deep heavy weight of guilt and shame because of a sinful life. They are unwilling to come to Christ to have that guilt and shame removed, and that decision has inevitably led them to such a state of depression and self-loathing, that it has deeply affected them emotional and mentally – it is as though grief has swallowed them up.

Friend - unless Jesus Christ is allowed in – insanity may follow.

John MacArthur writes.

“The true believer will hate his sin even while he is committing it and always after he has done it, because it is now completely contrary to his new nature in Christ. Even though a believer’s humanness sometimes draws him into sin, and, like Paul, does the very thing he knows he ought not to do (Romans 7:16), he himself will have no peace of conscience until he repents of it and heads home.”

Luke 15:11-21,23-24

And Jesus said to them: “A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, *“Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.”* So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a

far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘*How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!* 18 *I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”*’ 20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, “*Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.... 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.*’ And they began to be merry.

Think of the spiritual tension that troubled his mind and emotions.

He was taken captive by his own choices. The result of such rebellion is what in-turn inevitably leads to physical illness and possible death.

The Direction Of Faith Always Directs Away From Us

1c.) Faith directs us away from captivity

vs. 28

Verse 28

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

The very Law that the Jew claimed to have security in – was, is the very Law that held them captive. The law demands that we seek out atonement or a means of forgiveness when that righteous and perfect law is violated.

conclude grk: logizomai
we reckon, we consider, we counted, we credit.

apart grk: choris;
independent of, separate from, {*a startling revelation from the Bible here - that a man can be cleared of sin*} without the Law.

If The Direction Of Your Faith
Is pointing you in any other direction than Jesus Christ –
You're going in the wrong direction.

So what is Faith?

Matthew 11:28-29

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

End of Study

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