

Romans 3:27-28

Faith Without Deeds

1. 3:21-26 - Paul's Declaration of Grace and Faith

- a. Christ is necessary 3:21-23, grace (his work) is necessary 3:24-25, faith is necessary 3:26
- b. 25 - Righteous redemption of the transgressions under the first testament (cross)
- c. 24 - By which redemption (cross), all are justified freely by his grace
- d. 22-23 - To all for all have sinned, Righteousness upon all that believe
- e. 21 - righteousness now manifest without the law, witnessed by the law and prophets
- f. v25 declares his righteousness for remission of sins that are past
- g. v26 declares his righteousness for justification of those that believe in Jesus at this time

2. 3:27 - Faith Excludes Boasting

- a. *'Where is boasting then?'* After this declaration of God's righteousness to save sinners
 - i. Circumcision (Jew) rightfully boasted of God and his law - Rom 3:2, 2:17, 23
 - ii. We glory in the work of Christ on the cross - Gal 6:14
- b. *"it is excluded"* - Of law due to 'without the law' 'freely by his grace' 'his righteousness'
 - i. Of God due to 'all have sinned' 'upon all that believe' 'there is no difference'
- c. *"of works? Nay...of faith"* - Which tells us two things:
 - i. 1) the law can't remove sin or make good men better, 2) faith is not a work
- d. *"by the law of faith"* - Boasting is removed by grace and faith revealed - Eph 2:8-9

3. 3:28 - Faith Without Deeds

- a. *"therefore we conclude"* - Starting at Rom 1:17 through the declaration of Rom 3:21-26
 - i. God's wrath against all, b/c all are without excuse - Rom 1:18-2:1
 - ii. The doers are just, but the hearers don't do! Rom 2:13 to 2:21, 26
 - iii. God justifies freely by grace through faith in Christ's redeeming work - 3:21-25
- b. *"justified by faith without the deeds of the law"*
 - i. This is the 'faith alone' statement, repeated from Acts 13:38-39 and Rom 3:21
 - ii. It stands contrasted to do the law and live - Mt 19:17, Jm 2:24, 1Jo 3:7, Ro 2:6-8
 - iii. Paul's conclusion of 'without' is a progressive revelation from Christ about grace
- c. *"without the deeds of the law"* - What are these deeds? All good things, or Jewish only
 - i. NPP, faith+ separate Jewish law (circumcision, days, etc) from good works
 - ii. But, 'without the law' in 3:20-21 is the same as 'without the deeds' here
 - iii. If deeds were just Jewish, then it could not bring knowledge of sin - Matt 23:23
 - iv. If deeds were just Jewish, the hardest deeds remain - 1 John 2:29, 3:6, 10, 18
 - v. If deeds were just Jewish, then the Gentile argument of Rom 2:14+ breaks down
 - vi. If deeds were just Jewish, then Rom 2:21-23, 3:10-18, 4:6 loses meaning
 - vii. If deeds were just Jewish, then wouldn't that include tithing and baptisms?
 - viii. If deeds were just Jewish, then boasting remains with most deeds - Rom 4:2
 - ix. Paul's audience and argument is Jewish, but is proving justification w/o works
- d. If Paul's faith is the same as James', then faith alone would be heresy - Jam 2:24
- e. **But** if he declares what James never did, then faith can stand alone with Paul - Rom 4:5