

Heart of the Gospel

Part 3 – Boasting and Believing

Romans 3.27-4.4

Nobody boasts before God

- Boasting is ruined by faith (v.27)
 - Why? Because we were sinners – short of the glory of God (v.23)
 - Why? Because it was grace shown to us – undeserved and unearned (v.24)
 - Why? Because we didn't accomplish what was accomplished – Jesus did (v.25)
 - Clarity: it wasn't the OT that ruined boasting, it was Christ
 - Important because if we're attached to Him boasting will consistently be nonexistent
- Justification comes by faith (v.28)
 - Justification: we are made right with a righteous God
 - God is always committed to do right and always does what's right
 - This commitment and follow-through is what He requires of His people, who are unable to meet this standard
 - Enter Jesus, who meets the standard for us and His righteousness is counted as ours – this is what it means to be justified before God
 - It cannot come by works – only by faith in Jesus
 - It cannot come by faith + works – only by faith in Jesus
 - The prescription must fit the problem – we are under the power of sin, which works will not fix
- Doctrine of Justification:
 1. Legal Declaration
 2. Before God
 3. Because of Christ
 4. By faith alone
 5. By grace alone

One God and One Way

- Transition: if God justified people by works of the law, then He's really only the God of the Jews
- Because God is the only God, He is the God of everyone (v.29)
- Because God is the only God, He will justify everyone the same way (v.30)
- Because God is the only God, He satisfies the Law for everyone who has faith (v.31)
- Application: unity based on equality at the foot of the cross of Christ

Questions for Discussion

1. What's the funniest / silliest / dumbest boast you have ever heard? By whom was it made? What was the outcome (if anything)?
2. Reread Romans 3.21-26. Trent argued that faith ruins boasting. Why is that the case? What are examples you can think of from your own life where you know that to be true?
3. Trent defined justification as being made right with a righteous God. Why is faith in Jesus necessary for that? Why do we stress that it is by faith *alone* that a person is justified before God?
4. In the sermon, Trent stated that being justified by faith will produce humility in us. Why? What examples have you seen of this in your own life? In someone else's life?
5. As a part of God justifying everyone the same way, an outward focus develops – one that thinks about people as near to God or far from Him. Who is one person in your life that you would identify as far from God? How are you praying for him / her? How can this doctrine of justification by faith alone turn you toward them?