



November 5, 2023

***Romans: Rooted in Jesus
The Righteousness of God***

Romans 3:21-31

For Discussion and Reflection

1. Paul says that justification (declaration of righteous standing before the law) comes through faith, as opposed to what? 3:20. This goes to the core of their conflict within the church. The Jewish believers were imposing the law (circumcision and other ceremonial aspects) on the Gentile believers. What laws do you live by? What do you expect from others? Ex. Some people are very time conscious and believe if you aren't early, you're late. Ex. Some demand productivity and criticize those who aren't always productive. What's yours and how does it affect your relationships with others?
2. Paul told us that God shows no partiality, in the context of judgment, 2:11. In this text, he says there is no distinction, for all have sinned and all are justified by faith. Then he asks, "is God the God of the Jews only? Is he not the God of the Gentiles also?" His reasoning is that God is "one," 3:30. What does it mean that God is one? What about his univocal nature is born out in his impartiality?
3. Paul is specific that we receive by faith Jesus' redemption and the Father's propitiation through him. What is your understanding of these concepts? Remember the two sheep story from the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16. What does Jesus do for us?
4. Paul asks the question, "What becomes of boasting?" Who was boasting? What was their boast? How was it impacting their relationships? If we truly understand what Paul says to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 4:7, how will our relationships change? How would your marriage change? Your parenting? Your work?
5. What does Paul mean by the "law of faith" in verse 27? He can't mean "obedience to" as that would contradict his argument. How is Paul using the word "law" in reference to faith?
6. Paul argues that salvation received by faith as a gift of God's grace upholds the law. How does it do that? Consider Romans 3:10-20, 23. How does justification by faith uphold the law?
7. What did you learn today? What steps can you take to grow in God's grace?