

Letter to a DIVIDED Church ~ Romans 1-4

→ **Scripture Reading** Romans 1:16-17, 3:21-24, 4:24-25

I am NOT ASHAMED ~ Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a **righteousness from God** is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

People are saved BY faith, but faith is NOT the cause of salvation. The cause of salvation is the GRACE of God, the WILL of God, and the POWER of God working through the gospel. CSB

The life of FAITH is ALL-ENCOMPASSING: it is BY faith that one initially RECEIVES the gift of salvation (eternal life), but it is also BY faith that one LIVES each day. ESV

IMPLICATIONS

→ The Gospel is the Good News of God's Salvation

¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness FROM God is revealed, a righteousness that is BY faith from FIRST to LAST...

¹⁷ ...accomplished from START to FINISH BY faith... (NLT)

Positional - we are IN Christ - Justification

Progressive - we WALK with Christ - Sanctification

Ultimate - will be LIKE Christ - Glorification

We are SAVED by Faith- but the ENJOYMENT of our Salvation come through our obedience and submission to the work of Christ in our Lives.

Even MORE Guilty ~ Romans 2:1, 5-6, 11

¹ You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. (NLT)

⁵ But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will judge EVERYONE according to what they have done. (NLT) ¹¹ For God does NOT show FAVORITISM.

Gentiles		Jews	
Creation	Rm 1:19-20	Creation	Rm 1:19-20
Conscience	Rm 2:14-15	Conscience	Rm 2:14-15
		God's Law	Rm 2:23-25

IMPLICATIONS

→ **God offers us something far better than Favoritism - He offers GRACE**

HOW God Judges Constable

- He Judges Honestly Based on what is TRUE
- He Judges what each person Really DID
- He Judges everyone Justly and FAIRLY

Revelation 20:11-12, 15 (NIV) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had DONE as recorded in the books. ...¹⁵ If anyone's name was not FOUND written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Jesus became what we ARE -SO THAT- we could become what He IS

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made Him who had NO sin to BE SIN for us, so that IN Him we might become the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV) For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is DUE him for the things DONE while in the body, whether good or bad.

No one is JUSTIFIED by the LAW ~ Romans 3:9-10, 19-24

⁹Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that ALL PEOPLE, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. ¹⁰ As the Scriptures say, NO ONE is righteous - not even one. (NLT)

Because Adam sinned we are ALL born with a sin Nature. But not only are we sinners by NATURE; we are also sinners by PRACTICE. We ALL fall SHORT of the glory of God. MacDonald

²⁰ Therefore NO ONE will be declared righteous in His sight BY observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. ²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. (NIV)

^{1:17} For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is BY FAITH from first to last...

Justification by Faith gives us a...

- new STATUS
- new FAMILY
- new FUTURE

IMPLICATIONS

→ We have been REDEEMED by the Blood of Jesus

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

²⁴ They are justified freely by His grace through **the REDEMPTION** that is in Christ Jesus. (HCS)

1 Peter 1:18-19 (HCS) For you know that you were REDEEMED from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious BLOOD of Christ, like that of a LAMB without defect or blemish.

Philippians 1:6 (HCS) I am sure of this, that He who STARTED a good work IN you will CARRY it on to COMPLETION until the day of Christ Jesus.

Believing Jews and Gentiles ~ Romans 4:20-25

²⁰ Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. ²² And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. (NLT)

²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also FOR US, to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who BELIEVE in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to DEATH for our sins and was raised to LIFE for our justification.

TAKE AWAY ??

→ Delivered to DEATH - and Raised to LIFE

²⁵ He was handed over to DIE because of OUR SINS, and He was raised to LIFE to make us right with God. (NLT)

¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is REVEALED, a righteousness that is BY FAITH from First to Last...

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV) He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NET) So then, if anyone is IN Christ, he IS a NEW creation; what is old has passed away - what is NEW has come.