

Message: Romans 3:27-4:8

Message Date: September 28, 2025

Summary of the Sermon:

What if the very foundation of our faith completely eliminates any reason we could ever have to brag? Romans 3:27 through Romans 4:8 takes us on a journey through one of the most liberating truths in all of Scripture: we are justified by faith alone, and that changes everything about how we see ourselves, how we see others, and how we live. Paul walks us through a powerful lineup of theological terms, including righteousness, justification, redemption, and propitiation, not to overwhelm us, but to make one stunning point crystal clear. God did all the work. Every single bit of it. He credited the righteousness of Christ to our account the moment we believed, and that leaves us with nothing to boast about except Jesus himself. Far from being discouraging, this truth is the most freeing thing we could ever embrace. When we truly grasp that we brought nothing to our salvation except our need, pride loses its grip on us, and we begin to look at the unbelieving world around us not with judgment but with the same compassion that drew us to Christ in the first place.

Title: No Room for Boasting: Salvation by Faith Alone

Sermon Summary:

Drawing from Romans 3:27 through Romans 4:8, this sermon examines why Christians have absolutely no grounds for boasting or pride before God. The pastor revisits key theological terms from the previous week, including faith, righteousness, justification, imputation, redemption, and propitiation, to reinforce that salvation is entirely the work of God. Because God alone accomplished every element of salvation and human beings contribute nothing but faith, all boasting is excluded. Paul's rhetorical questions drive home the point that this truth applies equally to Jews and Gentiles, since there is one God who saves all people the same way. The sermon then presents Abraham and David as two biblical witnesses who confirm that justification has always been by faith apart from works, leaving no room for human pride. The pastor closes with a call to humility, joy, and a lifestyle that brags only about Jesus.

Key Points:

- Boasting is entirely excluded from the Christian life because God alone accomplished salvation; the believer contributes nothing but faith
- Key theological terms, including righteousness, justification, imputation, redemption, and propitiation, all point to what God has done, not what humanity has done
- Salvation by faith is equally available to all people, both Jews and Gentiles, because there is one God who justifies all the same way
- The law is not made void by faith; it continues to function as a tutor to bring unbelievers to Christ
- Abraham, who lived before the Mosaic law, was justified by faith and had nothing to boast about before God
- David, who lived fully under the Mosaic law, celebrated the blessedness of having sins forgiven and righteousness imputed apart from works
- Pride toward unbelievers is itself a form of boasting, since no Christian earned their salvation
- Christians should be marked by humility, joy, and a habit of boasting only about Jesus and what he has accomplished

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 3:27-31 (the exclusion of boasting, justification by faith, God of both Jews and Gentiles, the law established)
- Romans 4:1-8 (Abraham justified by faith, wages versus grace, David's celebration of imputed righteousness)
- Genesis 15:6 (Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness)
- Psalm 32:1-2 (David's declaration of blessing for the one whose sins are forgiven and not counted against them)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (saved by grace through faith, not of works, lest anyone boast)
- Galatians 3 (the law as a tutor to lead people to Christ)

Stories:

- The Olympic bragging analogy: the pastor uses the humorous image of bragging being an Olympic sport to illustrate how absurd human pride is in light of what God has freely given
- The grandchildren sharing candy: a brief illustration of human stinginess contrasted with God's generosity in freely dispensing justification to all
- The mortgage payoff analogy: used to illustrate propitiation, describing Jesus as one who comes and pays off the entire debt so that nothing remains owed
- The employer and wages analogy: drawn from Romans 4:4, contrasting earning a paycheck as a legal debt with receiving salvation as pure grace, since no one can tell God he owes them salvation
- The Christmas gift rejection analogy: the pastor describes someone spending everything they have on an extraordinary gift, only to have it refused, as a picture of people rejecting the free gift of salvation that cost Jesus everything
- The credit card analogy: used to explain how Old Testament believers like Abraham were saved on credit, receiving the benefits of salvation before Jesus actually paid the price, with God the Father knowing the payment was coming

Discussion Questions:

Day 1:

The sermon emphasizes that boasting is entirely excluded for believers because salvation comes through faith alone -- in what practical ways might subtle forms of spiritual pride still creep into a Christian's daily life and relationships?

Paul establishes that justification comes by faith apart from the deeds of the law, meaning God did all the work of salvation -- how does truly internalizing this truth change the way you approach your relationship with God and with others?

Day 2:

The sermon points out that Jesus was described as a friend of sinners while also declaring that the world's deeds are evil -- what does it look like in practice to hold both deep humility and honest truth-telling together when engaging with unbelievers?

Abraham was saved by faith before the law of Moses was ever given, and David was saved by faith while living fully under that law -- what does this tell us about the consistency of God's plan of salvation across all of human history?

Day 3:

Romans 3:28 concludes that a person is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law -- how does understanding justification as something done to us, rather than something we achieve, reshape how we think about spiritual growth and effort?

The sermon describes propitiation as a full and satisfying payment for sin -- how does meditating on the completeness of Christ's sacrifice affect the way you deal with guilt, shame, or a sense of unworthiness before God?

Day 4:

Paul argues that faith does not make void the law but rather establishes it, since the law continues to serve as a tutor leading unbelievers to Christ -- how should this understanding shape the way Christians engage with moral and ethical conversations in a secular culture?

The sermon draws a contrast between wages earned through work and the gift of salvation received through faith, noting that God is a debtor to no one -- how does this distinction between debt and grace challenge common human assumptions about fairness and what we deserve from God?

Day 5:

David's words in Psalm 32, quoted in Romans 4, celebrate the blessedness of having sins forgiven and not counted against us -- how does regularly reflecting on the fact that your sins are no longer imputed to your account shape your sense of identity and daily emotional well-being?

The sermon closes with the observation that God's power flows through humble people -- what spiritual disciplines or habits might help a believer cultivate the kind of genuine humility that makes them both attractive to unbelievers and fully open to the work of the Holy Spirit?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or two of these as a group to focus on this week.

1. **Audit your speech.** Pay attention this week to how often you talk about yourself versus how often you talk about what Jesus has done. Make a conscious effort to redirect credit and glory toward him in everyday conversations.
2. **Practice humility with an unbeliever.** Identify one person in your life who does not know the Lord. Rather than approaching them with a sense of having something they lack, approach them this week simply as someone who was equally undeserving and equally loved by God. Let that shape how you talk with them.
3. **Spend time in Psalm 32.** David wrote this psalm as a celebration of forgiveness and imputed righteousness. Read through the whole psalm slowly this week and use it as a personal prayer of gratitude for what God has credited to your account.
4. **Memorize one verse.** Consider committing Romans 4:5 or Romans 3:28 to memory this week as a personal anchor against pride and a reminder of the grace that saved you.
5. **Share what Jesus has done for you.** The pastor encouraged believers to brag about Jesus freely and often. This week, find one natural opportunity to tell someone specifically what Christ has done in your life. Keep it personal, keep it humble, and keep the focus on him.

"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin." - Romans 4:8