

Session 08

No Reason **TO BOAST**

CENTRAL TRUTH | The good news of Jesus is for all people.

Everyone loves gifts! Many of us look forward to birthdays and Christmas for this very reason. When we receive a good gift, our surprise, joy, and gratitude overflow. But, as the apostle Paul argues, a gift is different from payment. We earn—and rightfully expect—pay through effort and hard work. As we will see in this week’s teaching, salvation isn’t like this; God’s salvation is a gift freely given to those who believe in Christ. Therefore, believers have no reason to brag or to be prideful about what we’ve done. The good news of Jesus is for all people, regardless of background.



REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

ROMANS 3:21-26

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets.

²² The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. 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. ²⁵ God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. ²⁶ God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

ROMANS 3:27-31

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith. ²⁸ For we conclude that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too?

Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰ since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then nullify the law through faith? Absolutely not! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

ROMANS 4:1-5

¹ What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

² If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about — but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was credited

to him for righteousness. ⁴ Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness.

Day 01

LUKE 5:31-32



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

You usually only go to the doctor when you're feeling sick, right? You go to get a diagnosis and some medicine to help you get better. Jesus explains that in the same way, He came for people who know they're "sick"—those who know they're not perfect and need help. In this passage, some religious leaders were criticizing Jesus for hanging out with people they considered "sinners." But Jesus explained it this way: Just as a doctor is needed for the sick, not the healthy, Jesus came to help those who know they need saving. He didn't come for people who think they have it all together. His love is for everyone, especially those who realize their need for a Savior.

← Why would Jesus' statement have been so shocking to the religious leaders?

↑ What does this passage reveal about God's character and His heart for those who are outcasts?

↔ Knowing that Jesus came for sinners, how should this truth change how you view and treat people you might consider flawed or outcasts?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write **Romans 3:22** in a creative font and illustrate it with markers, paint, or other art supplies. Seeing the verse in a colorful and artistic way helps it stick in our minds. Hang it where you can see it every day.

📍 PRAY

Jesus, thank You for coming to seek and save the lost. Help me to remember that You came for all people. Show me how to love and value people the way You do.

Day 02

ROMANS 3:21-26

📍 READ & RESPOND

This passage is the heart of Paul's letter to the Romans. It teaches us that God's righteousness is a gift and that we can't earn it on our own. It's given to anyone who simply believes in Jesus. Every person has sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard. The good news is that we don't have to be perfect to be made right with God. Instead, our sins are forgiven when we have faith in Jesus. He lived a perfect life and then died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Because of His sacrifice, we are declared innocent and given His righteousness. This means our relationship with God isn't based on our actions but on what Jesus has already done for us.

← Why would the idea of God's righteousness being given through faith, rather than by following Jewish law, have been so revolutionary to the Jewish people of that day?

↓ This passage says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." What does this tell us about our inability to earn our salvation?

→ How can you live this week in a way that shows you're grateful for God's grace?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write each word of **Romans 3:22** on separate pieces of paper. Mix up the words and put them back in the correct order. This activity helps you think about the correct structure of the verse.

📍 PRAY

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your righteousness. Please help me to live in a way that shows I'm grateful for what You've done for me. Help me to never forget that I am saved by grace through faith.


Day 03

ROMANS 3:27-31

 **READ & RESPOND**

Paul reminds us that when it comes to salvation, only One gets the glory: God. We have no room for boasting or bragging, because we are justified, or made right with God—not by what we do but by faith in Jesus. This means we can't earn our way to heaven by being good enough. It's a gift from God. The Jewish people believed they were justified by following the law. But Paul makes it clear that God is the God of both the Jews and the Gentiles. He is the God of everyone. This passage teaches us that we can't be proud of our salvation because it is a work of God alone.

 According to this passage, how are people justified? Why is there no room for pride?

 What does this passage tell us about humanity's natural desire to take credit for its own righteousness?

 Since you can't earn your salvation, how should you respond to God's free gift of grace?

 **MEMORIZE**

Write **Romans 3:22** on a small card. Walk around and say the verse out loud. The physical movement helps your brain process and remember the words. You can say it faster or slower as you walk.

 **PRAY**

Lord, thank You for the gift of salvation by grace through faith. Please help me remember that I can't earn my way to You. Help me to live in a way that gives You all the glory.

Day 04

GENESIS 15:1-6

📍 READ & RESPOND

Sometimes the things we desire in our lives seem impossible. They're out of reach, completely unattainable. When God made His covenant with Abraham, He promised him heirs that were more numerous than the stars. On a clear night, with the naked eye, you can see thousands upon thousands of stars in the sky. Some astronomers estimate that our universe contains around two hundred billion trillion stars! God promised Abraham an insane number of heirs. And Abraham believed Him. Because he believed Him, righteousness was credited to him. Abraham's righteousness isn't about believing in the impossible; it's about believing in a God who can do the impossible and trusting our lives to Him completely.

↑ What does God's promise to Abraham reveal about His faithfulness to His word?

↓ What does this passage tell us about our need to trust God and our inability to earn our own salvation?

→ In what area of your life do you need to start trusting that God will do the impossible?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write **Romans 3:22** on a sticky note and put it on your bathroom mirror. Every time you get ready in the morning or evening, say the verse out loud while looking at your reflection. The visual and verbal repetition will help you lock the words into your memory.

📍 PRAY

God, You are the Promise Keeper, and Your goodness reminds me that I can trust in You for impossible things. When my tasks or needs seem impossible, remind me that You are the God of the impossible.

Day 05

ROMANS 4:1-5

READ & RESPOND

Yesterday, we talked about how God made Abraham right with Him simply because Abraham believed. In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul brings up this exact story to remind his readers that Abraham's good deeds didn't earn him God's approval. Nothing he could do would ever be enough to get him into heaven. Instead, it was Abraham's faith that made him right with God. Paul wants us to know that our salvation is a free gift we can't earn. It's given to us when we put our trust in Jesus. We can't earn our way to God; we receive His righteousness when we believe that Jesus is truly who He says He is.

↻ What does Paul say about how Abraham was justified? What does he say about the person who believes?

↑ What does God's choice to justify the "ungodly" reveal about His character and His great mercy?

→ Since your salvation is a gift of faith, how should you change the way you approach your relationship with God?

MEMORIZE

Make up a simple tune or rap to go with **Romans 3:22**. The rhythm and melody will help you remember the words. You can sing it to yourself or record it to listen to later.

PRAY

Father, Your goodness and kindness are overwhelming. May I always humbly remember that Your precious gift of salvation is something I could never earn on my own.