

Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 41)—No Boasting in Ourselves

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/zsnj8s8/part-41-no-boasting-in-ourselves>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left**

Welcome, everyone, to Episode 41 of our series *Why Christians Should Keep the Law*.

We will continue to peel back some layers of Paul's discourse to the Romans because we can connect so many dots by delving into this rich and profound epistle. Today, we will start in Romans 3:23, which is one of the most popular verses in the entire book.

Romans 3:23—Paul said—²³ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God** (emphasis added).

Paul declared that humanity has a major problem because every man has fallen short of the glory of God. Every man has failed to walk in perfect righteousness, so we have a problem. Paul followed up with the hope.

Romans 3:24—²⁴ **being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus** (emphasis added). This is the hope. We have been justified by Jesus. God so loved the world He sent His son.

In the book of Romans within a few verses of one another, the Apostle Paul expressed justification in a variety of ways. In Romans 3:24, he said, "Man is **justified by His grace**." In Romans 5:1, he said, "We are **justified by faith**." In Romans 5:9, he said, "We are **justified by His blood**." So, we are justified by grace, by faith, and by His blood. This is not a situation of "which is it?" They are all correct. They all pertain to Jesus. Jesus is the grace of God. It is through His blood and through faith in Him that we are justified.

It gets really interesting because in Romans 2:13, Paul said, "Only **the doers of the law will be justified**." Again, within Paul's own epistle, is it a situation of either-or? No, it's a situation of understanding the structure of the faith. All of these components truly express how man will be justified. The further we get into this discussion, the greater clarity we will have. So, let's continue on in this epistle.

Romans 3:25—²⁵ **whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness**—How did God demonstrate His righteousness? Jesus is His Son. He is the righteousness of God—**because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,** ²⁶ **to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one**

who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith (emphasis added).

In other words, Paul basically said that man has no ability to boast before God regarding their own efforts in the Law. They can't say, "God, we really deserve this. You've seen everything I did. You've seen how amazingly obedient I have been. I really merit the kingdom of God." Because man has failed, no man could ever do such a thing before a perfectly holy and awesome God. ²⁰ **For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin** (Ecclesiastes 7:20). We have a fatal flaw. We have failed to carry out His holy Law perfectly, so our boasting cannot be in and of ourselves. Boasting is in Jesus alone, in the righteousness of God.

This is really important. Throughout the Bible, including in the Old Testament, God-fearing men never for a moment thought about boasting in their own righteousness. This is prior to the revelation of God's Holy Righteousness, Jesus, coming to earth. Comb the pages of the Old Testament, and look at all the righteous men who feared God. They were not presenting themselves before God and telling God, "Look at me. I am amazing. I deserve your attention. I deserve to inherit the kingdom of God." You won't find any such narrative, but you will find the exact opposite.

I will give you some examples of this. King David was one of the most righteous men that ever lived. God said of him, **"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will"** (Acts 13:22). King David set the bar by which all the kings of Israel were compared to (whether they walked according to the footsteps of David or whether they didn't). David was a highly decorated man of God. Listen to what he said:

Psalm 16:2—² **O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You"** (emphasis added).

God Himself expressed David's righteousness by saying that David did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left in anything (except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite). Yet King David declared that all of his goodness, all of his faithfulness, and his walking with the Lord was nothing apart from God. David expressed his codependence on the God of Israel. He wasn't confused about how this works.

Psalm 31:1—David said—¹ **In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness** (emphasis added).

Notice, David didn't say, "Deliver me in my righteousness. Look how good I have been. I deserve this." He said, **"Deliver me in Your righteousness."** And who is the righteousness? It is Jesus. Even King David is saved by the blood of Jesus, who was foreordained before the creation of the world to be the atonement for all humanity.

Psalm 71:16—David said—¹⁶ **I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD—He didn't say "in my own strength"—I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only** (emphasis added).

Paul brought the concept of "Where is boasting?" to the Romans. Is it in the Law? Is It of works? Is it in our own ability? It is in no such things. It is in the Lord Jesus. **"I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only."** That is our boast. What Paul expressed to the Romans was expressed in the Old Testament by amazing men like King David.

And I will say this, and this is important, so hear me out. I would love to delve into this, but we don't have time today. Some of the most lofty and incredible expressions of the Law ever laid out in Scripture were stated by King David. The way he articulated the beauty and the importance of the Law is mesmerizing.

David spoke high and lofty of the Law, and he submitted to it, desired it, walked in it, and kept it. Despite David loving God's holy truth and His Law, and making every effort to follow it, so he could please God, he never for a moment stood before God and said, "Look at me," as though he would boast in his own works in the Law. He only boasted in God Himself.

This is not a New Testament phenomenon that the Apostle Paul wrote about. This is a righteous God-fearing phenomenon that has existed all throughout Scripture.

In Isaiah 54:17, the Lord said—¹⁷ **their righteousness is from Me** (emphasis added).

As men and women of God, we need to have a clear understanding that our codependence is on Jesus alone. There is no other way. ⁶ **He is the way, the truth, and the life** (John 14:6).

I will close with Proverbs 20:9—⁹ **Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?** (Emphasis added).

It's a rhetorical question. The answer is no one. There is no one who has ever been born into humanity that can say, "Jesus, why don't you just step aside. I got this. I can take care of this myself. I will cleanse myself from my own sin." We need a Savior; we need atonement; we need forgiveness.

May the Lord Jesus, who gives us that precious atonement by His blood, bless you and keep you.