

Focus passage: Romans 3:19-31

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. **20** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22** the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. **26** It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. **28** For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. **29** Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, **30** since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **31** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

What stands out to you from this passage?

What does the law help us to do and to see?

*One thing the law does it helps us see our own unrighteousness and to reveal the righteousness of God (**Rom 3:5**). How do we now better see the righteousness of God?*

Why does Paul say that there is no distinction? Who is he referring to and in what way does he mean this?

If we all are sinners, that levels the playing field. No one is good enough. How is Christ the only hope for us sinners?

*Paul says that Christ offers redemption and that he is our propitiation. What do those two words mean? **Read and discuss Hebrews 9:11-15 and Hebrews 2:14-17 for further use of those words.***

*Simply put, redemption means restoration or saving, and Christ is our propitiation in that he sacrificed himself on our behalf, taking the punishment that we deserve because of our sin. What are the implications of these works of Christ? **Look to v. 27-29.***

How can balance the tension between staying humble, not boasting in ourselves, and being confident and exceedingly bold in regards to Jesus Christ, boasting in his unique, saving work for us?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

