

“Understanding the Gospel as to its Necessity, its Provision, and its Implications”

Romans 3:21-31

Theme: God, in Christ, is going to do something for you that you cannot do for yourself.

Introduction:

“Cheer up! You're a worse sinner than you ever dared imagine, and you're more loved than you ever dared hope.” — Jack Miller

Outline:

- I. The GOSPEL'S Necessity
 - A. The Law's deficiency (v. 21)
 - B. Humanity's inability (v. 23 “all have sinned”)

- II. The GOSPEL'S Provision (vv. 22, 24, 25, 26)
 - A. The Gospel is only provided in and through Jesus Christ
 - B. The Gospel is only appropriated by grace through faith

- III. The GOSPEL'S Implications (vv. 24-26)
 - A. The clearing of the guilty [justification]
 - B. The freeing of the indebted [redemption]
 - C. The placating of the wrathful [propitiation]
 - D. The vindicating of the accused (vv. 25, 26)

Three Questions:

1. Does justification by faith exclude boasting in my ability? **YES!** (vv. 27, 28)
2. Does justification by faith also include the Gentiles? **YES!** (vv. 29, 30)
3. Does justification by faith nullify the Law? **NO!** On the contrary, **IT ESTABLISHES THE LAW!** (v. 31; Cf. v. 21)

Because the **GOSPEL** is so **RADICALLY GOOD NEWS** we seek to soften its impact by explaining away its **GOODNESS** and adding disclaimers and qualifiers. But in the **GOSPEL** there are no **Buts or Brakes**.

Shepherding the Sheep - WHAT NOW?

1. Do you know that you can't?
2. Do you know that God can?
3. Do you know that Jesus did?

