

Connect

Have you ever boasted about being good at something, only to have it embarrassingly backfire? Did you try to play it off, or did you just admit you had exaggerated a little?

Verses - Romans 3:27-31 (CSB)

Read aloud:

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.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to v.27, what happens to human boasting? What specific law (principle) excludes it?

2. In v.28, how does Paul clearly summarize the way a person is justified (made right with God)? What role do the works of the law play in this justification?

3. According to vv.29-30, is God the God of only one specific group of people? Because there is only one God, how does He justify both the circumcised (Jews) and the uncircumcised (Gentiles - everyone else)?

4. What question does Paul ask in v.31 regarding our faith and the law? Instead of us nullifying or destroying the law, how do we uphold it?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi shared a story about feeling guilty over an extra 10 yen until he saw and believed the All donuts 100 yen sign, which immediately gave him complete peace. How does this simple act of believing a poster illustrate the law of faith? When we struggle with guilt over our own shortcomings, how does truly believing in the special offer of the gospel bring us lasting peace?

Discuss 2:
In his story about the dairy farm in Hokkaido, Pastor Takeshi expected to lose his wages to pay for a broken truck door, but the farmer showed him complete grace. Because of this grace, he realized he wasn't in a position to complain like the other students. How does remembering that we are saved entirely by grace and not our own merit cure our pride and our tendency to criticize others?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing specific prayer requests.