

## 41. The Book of Romans 3:27-28-Part 2

### *Paul's Epistle to the Romans*

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(2-7-24)

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In our study in Romans, we are currently in the second major section of the book—a section that runs from 3:21-5:21. This section is dealing with one of the most important doctrines in the Christian faith—the doctrine of **'Justification.'** Paul is basically telling us how fallen sinners can be made right with God.

The problem today is that most people already think they're right with God and the reason is because they either have a high opinion of themselves or a low opinion of God—or both!

#### 1. A high view of self—

##### **Proverbs 30:11–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> *There is a generation that* curses its father, And does not bless its mother. <sup>12</sup> *There is a generation that is* pure in its own eyes, *Yet* is not washed from its filthiness. <sup>13</sup> *There is a generation—oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.*

##### **Proverbs 16:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the spirits.

##### **Proverbs 20:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin”? [the Pharisees and others like them]

#### 2. A low view of God—

##### **Psalms 50:16–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> But to the wicked God says: “What *right* have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, <sup>17</sup> Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you? <sup>18</sup> When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers. <sup>19</sup> You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit. <sup>20</sup> You sit *and* speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. <sup>21</sup> These *things* you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; *But* I will rebuke you, And set *them* in order before your eyes. <sup>22</sup> “Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear *you* in pieces, And *there be* none to deliver: <sup>23</sup> Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders *his* conduct *aright* I will show the salvation of God.”

I recently talked with a young woman who asked me, “*Why doesn't God just forget our sins instead of going through all the trouble of sending His Son to die...*” (Listen for response)

##### **Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> ...without shedding of blood there is no remission.

So, Paul is telling us that we are made right with God, not according to our works or the law—but as a gift made possible by the atoning work of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross. Because God is offering justification (salvation) as a gift—He is offering it to everyone freely and all they have to do is receive it by faith. But here’s the problem—there are 2 kinds of faith: *true* faith and *false* faith—genuine faith and counterfeit faith.

- “How do I know the difference?”—well, we started to look at this last week, but we ran out of time. So, let’s quickly review what we covered and then we’ll pick up tonight’s study.

**Romans 3:27–28 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Again, God tells us in His Word that we are justified (saved) by faith—but faith can be *counterfeited*. So, how can we know that our faith is genuine—that it is true saving faith?

Last week we looked at a list of things that *don’t* prove saving faith—even though many Christians believe that these things are proof of true saving faith—but not really.

**Qualities that don’t prove saving faith**

1. Visible morality
2. Biblical knowledge
3. Faithful church attendance
4. Outward piety
5. Serving in ministry
6. Guilt over sin
7. Assurance of salvation
8. A past decision for Christ

**Qualities of true saving faith**

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1. **An all-consuming love for God** (not for religion)

**Psalms 42:1–2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

**Psalms 73:25 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And *there is none* upon earth *that* I desire besides You.

**1 Peter 2:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious...*

**2. Genuine repentance (not simply remorse or regret) and a hatred of sin**

**2 Corinthians 7:9–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading to salvation*, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. <sup>11</sup> For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication!* In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

**Matthew 21:28–31 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. <sup>30</sup> Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of *his father?*” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

**Matthew 3:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.

**3. Genuine humility**

**Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (Philippians 2:8)

**Psalms 51:16–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

**4. Desire to glorify God above all else**

**Philippians 1:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)**

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**5. A heart for prayer**

**Colossians 1:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

None of us feels we pray enough—but when issues arise, or trials come, or sorrow descends—we want to run to our heavenly Father in prayer.

**6. A love for fellow Christians (the whole Body of Christ, not just your church or denomination)**

**1 John 2:9–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

**1 John 3:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

**1 John 4:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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