

Parson to Person

ROMANS 3 PART 2

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law” (Romans 3:21–31 NKJV).

The prophets throughout the Old Testament dispensations all prophesied (in one way or another) that there would be redemption from sin. From the time of the fall until the first incarnational ministry of Jesus, there were direct predictions, types, patterns, and promises of a coming Jewish Messiah and world deliverer. For example, we read in Genesis that God told Abraham, *“I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”* (Genesis 26:4 NKJV). Isaiah prophesied, *“Indeed [God] says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth’ ”* (Isaiah 49:6 NKJV). Therefore, we can see by two simple passages, that God will not only save Israel through her Messiah, but will also save the Gentiles who believe. Moreover, the Old Testament not only records the prediction of the coming Messiah and the salvation offered man, but also the fact that the whole created universe will be redeemed and restored to a beauty beyond our imaginations. God said, *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind”* (Isaiah 65:17 NKJV). Thus, for those who intend to inhabit and enjoy that New Heaven and Earth, they must be redeemed themselves. This Paul explains!

Paul said that believers are *“justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith”* (Romans 3:24–25). Moreover, he said, *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith”* (Romans 3:28–30 NKJV).

The law indeed did foreshadow the personal and propitiatory sacrifice of Jesus the Messiah. It also pointed out the sinfulness of man and his need for a savior. For these reasons (among many), Paul vortexed his purposes found here in Romans 1–3 by saying, *“Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law”* (Romans 3:31 NKJV).

I love you all, Pastor Paul