**Conclusion Exclusion: Part 1 – Boasting**

*Romans 3:27-28*

**Passage Background and Context Information**

The apostle has proven that you and I are in a state of guilt and condemnation before God, but God justifies us only by the redemption in Jesus’ shed blood and sacrificial death as ransom for our sins.

Schlatter, “The meaning of ‘to be justified’ is the granting of total help, the offering of God’s grace, the end of divine wrath and destruction that God metes out to humanity, a bonding with Christ for a life from and for God, complete salvation that is received through faith, and possession of a faith that comes not from calculation of performance.”

We are justified by faith alone in the work of Jesus Christ alone. So what about our efforts and good works? Do we have anything to boast about?

**The Question**

Where is boasting?

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 3:27-28 (CSB)

27Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith.

28For we conclude that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

**1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

Philippians 3:4-6 although I have reasons for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift — not from works, so that no one can boast.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Spurgeon, “Souls! Souls! this…has deluded far more than that bolder sort of work-trusting, which says, “I will rely upon what I do.” If you rely upon what you feel, you shall as certainly perish as if you trust to what you do. Repentance is a blessed work of grace, and to be convinced of sin by God the Holy Ghost is a holy privilege, but to think that these in any way win salvation, is to run clean counter to all the teachings of the Word, for salvation is of the free grace of God alone.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Faith is nothing but the instrument of our salvation. Nowhere in Scripture will you find that we are justified because of our faith; nowhere in Scripture will you find that we are justified on account of our faith. The Scripture never says that. The Scripture says that we are justified by faith or through faith. Faith is nothing but the instrument or the channel by which this righteousness of God in Christ becomes ours. It is not faith that saves us. What saves us is the Lord Jesus Christ and his perfect work. It is the death of Christ upon Calvary’s Cross that saves us. It is his perfect life that saves us. It is his appearing on our behalf in the presence of God that saves us. It is God putting Christ’s righteousness to our account that saves us. This is the righteousness that saves; faith is but the channel and the instrument by which his righteousness becomes mine. The righteousness is entirely Christ’s. My faith is not my righteousness and I must never define or think of faith as righteousness. Faith is nothing but that which links us to the Lord Jesus Christ and his righteousness.”

* **The purpose of justification is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_!**
* John Stott, “There is, indeed, something fundamentally strange about Christians who boast in themselves, as there is something essentially authentic, appropriate and attractive about their boasting in Christ. All boasting is excluded except boasting in Christ. Praising, not boasting, is the characteristic activity of justified believers, and will be throughout eternity.”
* Philippians 3:7-9 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ[a]—the righteousness from God based on faith.
* Galatians 6:13-14 13For even the circumcised don’t keep the law themselves, and yet they want you to be circumcised in order to boast about your flesh. 14But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. …
* R. Kent Hughes, “When it comes to salvation, boasting is unthinkable. Everything is of God. This is a call for humility, and humility paves the way for the exhilarating, infinite grace of God to deluge our bankrupt human hearts and bring us life. This is where all who are without Christ must begin. They must put down their pride and boasting and come with empty hands that they might receive this radical, true righteousness.”
* Piper, “Faith is not the boast of the strong. It is the cry of the weak in need of a Savior.”

**Pray**

“Jesus, I confess I am a sinner. I deserve Your judgment of death and hell. But I believe You love me, came down for me, lived a perfect life, and shed Your blood and died on the cross for my sins. I also believe that God raised You from the dead to forgive my sins, change me, and grant me everlasting life. Please forgive me, change my heart, and give me eternal life. I believe You are my Forgiver and God. I give my life to love, obey, and make much of You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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“The greatest sign of pride isn’t the presence of boasting; it’s a lack of prayer.” —B. J. Thompson

O my God and my Father, I accept you with all humble thankfulness, and I am bold to take hold of you.

O my King and my God, I subject my soul and all its powers to you.

O my glory, in you I will boast all day long.

O my rock, on you I will build all my confidence and my hopes.

O staff of my life and strength of my heart, the life of my joys and the joy of my life, I will sit and sing under your shadow and glory in your holy name.

—Joseph Alleine, “Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans”