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| 1  Romans 3:27-4:25 Sermon Outline  11/10/24  “Humbling All Under Grace”  **INTRO:**  Imagine at theme park  You must ascend to top to ride  Standing bottom 300 foot incline  1st man standing at top calling out to you  You start climbing but you start slipping/falling  2nd guy calls out to you to step aside and be lifted up to top  “Do you trust me”  You trust him and he lifts you up | 2  Roller coaster begins descent and circles around a goes up incline where you were standing  You see both smiling, next to each other waving at you as you power through the ride  Initially thought they were at odds, but then you realize they were working together all along  That is what relationship between Law and JC like  Law = first man  Jesus = second man  First man = Moses/Law = perfection,  Realize tracks are not made for humans but for coasters to ascend  That is why you kept falling and slipping further and further back  Further despair |
| 3  Only by second man’s power alone = reach the top  Only by Jesus’ righteousness can you reach the top  **MAIN POINT:**  Contrary to what Jews think = salvation always been by grace through faith alone + faith actually establishes, not abolishes the law  = demonstrate how faith actually establish the law through Abraham = greatest hero of their faith  **REVIEW:**  Ch. 1 = good news = righteousness of God in gospel  We need this good news because = Ch. 1-3 we are sinners in need of Christ’s righteousness  Immoral + moral + religious = all are guilty before God  Doesn’t matter Jew/Gentile = “*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*” | 4  That is why = Paul unashamed + eager to preach gospel  And what is this gospel = 3:21-26 (read)  **BODY:**  V. 27 “*Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith*.”  No room for boasting  For the Jew, his whole life was wrapped up in the idea of law-keeping  So Paul “okay, if we’re going by using “law” language = “Law of Faith”  Why Law of Faith?  V. 28 “*For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”*  Works of Law = tracks never meant for humans |
| 5  Rather the man operating the crane of the law of faith = save you  And faith = not a work  You’ve heard others say:  “well unlike those other foolish unbelievers, I was smart enough to believe in Jesus Christ for my sins…”  Some even accuse Christianity of contradictions saying “faith is a work itself!”  But God makes clear faith not work  Eph. 2:8-9 “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one may boast*.”  Faith = NOT OF YOURSELVES!  “Ok, Paul sure, faith is not from ourselves = it too is a gift from God, but doesn’t grant faith only to the Jews?! | 6  Like the Shema Deut. 6  “Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one”  Not only referring to:  -Oneness Godhead  -Exclusivity over other “g” ods  = also referring to God over the Gentiles, not just Jews!  Well if our one God is God also of the Gentiles, what’s the purpose of the Law?!  V. 31 “Do we then abolish the Law through faith? May it never be! By absolutely no means!  On the contrary, Paul says, we “establish the Law.”  “How so Paul?”  Remember roller coaster analogy = first and second man’s intentions are same, but first is to lead to second |
| 7  Exactly Paul’s point in Gal. 3:24  Law is our “tutor, or schoolmaster that leads us to Christ that we might be justified by faith”  What does this all mean for Abraham?  4:1 “*What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found*?”  What about our ancestor?  4:2 “*For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about- but not before God! For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness*.”  Quote from Gen. 15:6  “counted” = “reckoned, credited” = accounting term  Abraham’s checkbook = negative = God put in = positive  Not only not negative = but positive | 8  Paul gives a simple point V. 4  “*Now to the one who works, his wage is not counted according to grace, but according to what is due*.”  ILLUST:  Raise your hands if you ever said to your boss for your paycheck…  On flip side V. 5  “*But to the one who does not work, but believes upon Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness*.”  No true believer will say “God thank you for rewarding me with your salvation…you know I worked really hard to earn it!  Instead true believer: “God be merciful to me sinner, I don’t deserve you, I don’t deserve your Son, I only deserve hell!  Key Word: “Ungodly” |
| 9  if you are already godly, why would God need to justify you?  Jesus said what “I didn’t come to call the righteous, but what?? = sinners!  It is not those who are well in need of a physician, but those who are what??? = Sick!  To give ample evidence from OT, Paul also shows that even Israel’s greatest king understood that justification came by grace through faith alone  V. 6 *just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered*. *Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account*.”  Notice David doesn’t say “blessed are those who do good to make up for their evil…  No he says, “forgiven, covered” = final and instant | 10  Not a continual process of forgiveness but once and for all!  (Isn’t this perfect sermon for Jew to hear?)  However = another objection from Jew:  V. 9 “*Therefore, is this blessing on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say “Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness*”  Objection = David only said that because he was circumcised to those who were circumcised  Paul goes back to Abraham v. 10  “*How then was it counted (in reference to Abraham)? While he (Abraham) was circumcised or uncircumcised?*  Paul’s answer = “*not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised he was counted as righteous*.” |
| 11  Elaborates V. 11  “*and he received the sign of circumcision a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be counted to them, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised*.”  What is Paul saying? Gen. 15:6 = Abraham 85 years old believed + not circumcised  circumcised = Gen. 17 14 years later = 100 years old  V. 13 “*For the promise to Abraham or to his seed that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith, for if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith has been made empty and the promise has been abolished; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no trespass*.” | 12  VV. 13 + 14 = saying if salvation came through the Law = no point in faith = promise = broken  Promise = broken because we will inevitably as sinners fail to uphold our end of the deal  That’s why Gen. 15 = God put Abram into deep sleep and established covenant unilaterally (explain)  Hebrews 6 = God swore by himself since there was no one greater than himself to swear to keep the covenant  Since God cannot change and he cannot lie = therefore we can have the fullest assurance + confidence that He will do what He has promised to do  If promise made through “Law” = it will only bring about wrath  we were never meant to climb up the roller coaster tracks = show our inability to climb |
| 13  ILLUST:  Or in another picture = trespassing on property  Because all are guilty in their sin, therefore V. 16  “*For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be according to grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the seed, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all – as it is written, “A father of many nations have I made you – in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist*.”  Even very fact God changed Abram to “Abraham”  Abram = father of many (Jews only?)  Abraham = father of nations/multitudes (Unmistakably = both Jews and Gentiles) | 14  What is so striking about Abraham’s story is the timing of God’s promise to him  God didn’t promise him a son/heir/seed = in his prime, 20s, Sarah in her 20s…etc.  “Dead” referring to? = Himself! His body!  Human standpoint = hopeless  But from God’s standpoint = powerful to do anything He desires  God declares about Himself Jer. 32:27  *“Behold, I am Yahweh, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?”*  That’s why V. 18  “*In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your seed be”…* |
| 15  *And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to do*.”  Abraham’s body may be as good as = dead  But his faith = alive  Abraham’s trusted God so greatly that He was willing to sacrifice his own son, knowing that God was good and He had the power to raise Isaac his son from the dead  It is a level of trust in God that can say to King Nebuchadnezzar  “*If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to save us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will save us out of your hand, O king…* | 16  *But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden image that you have set up*.”  When we examples of faith like these… where it can stare death straight in the eye with confidence…do you really think that faith is a work that originates with us?  Or do you think faith has to come from outside of ourselves as a gift from God?  So…Abraham lived about 4000 years ago…what does that have to do with us?  A: Paul tells us V. 23  “*Now not for his sake only was it written that it was counted to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be counted, as those who believe upon Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He was delivered over on account of our transgressions, and was raised on account of our justification*.” |
| 17  Paul mentions = resurrection because without resurrection = no justification  In fact Paul says w/out resurrection   * Faith is in vain * Faith is worthless * Those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished eternally * Preaching is useless * We would be false witnesses * We would still be in our sins * We out of all people are most to be pitied by the world   No forgiveness, no eternal life, no joy, only damnation and hell await us w/out resurrection  Yes it was necessary to Christ to be delivered over for our transgressions = atonement to be made  But God needed to accept that atonement in the first place | 18  How do we know he accepted that atonement?  = resurrection  Atonement was secured and approved by God through Jesus rising from dead  My friend…you may see yourself spiritually as good as dead like Abraham saw his own body  May be in a hopeless situation/circumstance  Maybe you are trying to make up for all the bad you did by climbing the planks up to the roller coaster of God’s Law!  But if you do that…you must admit that the more you try…the more you realize you don’t measure up  because none of us measure up  And that’s why Jesus came to earth to voluntarily offer up his life as an atoning sacrifice for your sins  He became your substitute to die in your place |
| 19  That track was never meant for you to climb  It was meant for Jesus to climb and He did perfectly by His sinless obedience to the point of death on a cross  And if you recognize your ungodliness before Him…and if you cry out for His grace  He can lift you up by His Spirit all the way up His perfect righteousness so that you can live out the life of righteousness powered by the indwelling Holy Spirit  Living out the true intent of the Law by reflecting and representing who Christ is in your life  Did Abraham know Jesus?  Yes  John 8:56 “Abraham rejoiced to see my day and he saw it and was glad!” | 20  And you too my friend can rejoice like Abraham by seeing Jesus through the eyes of faith  Until the day when you physically are able to see Jesus face to face, with Abraham...Noah…with David…with Isaiah, Jeremiah, John, Peter, and Paul…all there saved by the same way  By believing in Him who justifies the ungodly….let’s pray  BENEDICTION:  Hebrews 13:20-21  “*Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, equip you in every good thing to do His will, by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen*.” |