

Romans 04 – Justified Shall Live Only by Faithfulness

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Romans 1:8-17

Epilogue

- To understand God's (Paul's) theology we also need to understand the attacks against His theology
 - Attacks on Paul's theology, thus the Church and the Gospel, begins with redefining Paul's words
 - NPP redefines the Gospel as a group experience, cultural nomism based on Judaism
 - Yet, Paul defines Faith and Grace as an individual's response to God's electing work on and in individuals

Reinforce Definition of Grace

- Grace (חן) – Oft translated as Favor in OT (Ge 6:8; Ex 33:13)
 - The Omnipotent reaching down to the Impotent based solely on His will: Essence of favor and thus, grace
 - The Impotent can do *nothing* to gain favor, pardon from the Omnipotent; he/she is totally, always undeserving
 - Noah found favor, grace, in the eyes of the Lord (Ge 6:8)
 - Moses found favor in the Lord, asked to learn His ways (Ex 33:13)

Noah was probably not the most powerful patriarch with only three sons and no grandchildren
God called Moses when he was totally devoid of power, tending sheep in the wilderness
God does not use our strengths, lest we should boast; He uses our weakness via *charisma*

Reinforce Definition of Faith

- Faith (πίστις) - Trust, belief (Non-empirical)
 - Foundational concept - absolute certainty in God
 - Faith is the **response** to God's self-revelation when He comes to us; we do not go to Him (Jo 6:37-40; 10:23-29; Ac 9:3-6, 11-19)
 - This does not come from within a person (Ac 8:9-24)
 - Faith is not a leap into the unknown but solidly based on that which cannot be seen; but can be known (He 11:1)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

Paramount Importance {First}

- Paul subtly reminds the Roman Christians that their faith is not theirs; it was given to them by God
 - Claudius expelled Jews from Rome 49 A.D. (Act 18:1-17)
 - This would include Christians since Rome did not perceive Christianity as separate from Judaism
 - This would explain Gallio's indifference to Jewish charges against Paul in Achaia; i.e., Corinth
 - Synagogue leader beat before Gallio who did nothing

Aquila and Priscilla (Christians) were expelled from Rome and thus met Paul in Corinth
Presumably, this is how Paul learned of the Church of Rome and its faithfulness and wrote his letter to them
Aquila and Priscilla worked with Paul in the Faith and later taught Apollos in Ephesus (Ac 18:24-28)

What is Thankfulness?

- Thankfulness (εὐχαριστέω) - To *reflect* God's grace
 - εὖ - Good: Only God is good (Mt 10:18)
 - χάρις - Grace: Comes only from God
 - τέω - Verb form: Being or exhibiting thankfulness
- Thankfulness is humble attitude acknowledging God's grace as the only basis for goodness (Slave mentality)

Prayers oft contain, if not begin with, thanks to God acknowledging His grace as all is beyond our ability

Paul Prays Consistently

- Paul states that he prays in his spirit consistently for the Roman church, and others: churches and individuals
 - ἀδιαλείπτως - This word can mean constantly but it is impossible and impractical to be constantly in prayer; it also means consistently, thus in this context it means Paul consistently prays for them when he prays
 - Paul explains later in Romans why he can pray in his spirit; this does not mean apart from God's Spirit (Ro 7)

Paul's Overall Purpose

- Paul states his goal in writing; and we must understand the Greek words to gain his meaning
 - πνευματικός - Spiritual: Context is God's Spirit
 - χάρισμα - Manifestation of God's Spirit which varies to meet the current need; not a gift (δῶρον)
 - Paul shares with them what God taught him to ground their faith in truth, but he also will learn from them: interdependence - God's charisma in all (Co1 10-15)

Why Has Paul Not Visited Rome?

- Paul anticipates the obvious question: if he earnestly prayed for the church and knew their faithfulness, why had he not visited?
 - The Church had been expelled when the Jews were expelled in 49 A.D. for some time
 - Paul was on his third journey and the Spirit constrains him to go to Jerusalem where he will be arrested before eventually being sent to Rome (Ac 20:17-23; 26:17,28)

Gospel: Knowledge of God

- The Gospel is not simply the message of salvation, but the entire corpus of Bible knowledge explaining why salvation comes only from God
 - Paul benefits from sharing God's truth with them
 - This implies a works-based rewards system: Untrue
 - Spirit moves believers to share Christ in His power, it is consistent with one's new nature; God *shares* his glory with those whom the Spirit works through (χάρισμα)

Under Obligation to Preach

- Paul uses language of the slave; he is *driven*, under the influence of the Spirit (χάρισμα), to preach the truth
 - Greeks and Barbarians: Not ignorant as it *includes* the Romans; Greeks were pinnacle of educated society then
 - Wise and Simple: Those who use knowledge and those who refuse to use knowledge (vs 1:20-26)
- For all these reasons Paul is eager to preach to Rome
 - Romans would not have been insulted being called non-Greeks
 - They adopted nearly everything Greek to be considered educated, but they knew they were not Greek
 - Wisdom applies to worldly and biblical wisdom: using knowledge properly, effectively; simple wasted knowledge

Not Ashamed of the Gospel

- Paul the Apostle (messenger), like Christ, is not ashamed of the Gospel (εὐ ἀγγέλιον) or good message (vs 40:9-11)
 - Gospel not only contains the news of salvation, but it also causes salvation; i.e., power of God's Spirit in it
 - Messenger has already been changed by the message
 - Sharing the message hopes to see change in others to include both Jews and Greeks (non-Jews): all who believe
- Gospel is inclusive irrespective of ethnicity and culture changing everyone bringing them into the body of Christ
- Much of Christianity today derives from Western culture and seeks to reproduce Western culture
- This conflates the Gospel with philosophy, governmental style and certain cultural values; Waters down the truth

Gospel Reveals God's Rightness

- Thus begins Paul's subtle use of Greek to contrast God's rightness against man's sinfulness
 - Gospel reveals God's rightness producing His image, and thus faith, in those changed by the Gospel (Ga 2:20)
 - Faith (πίστις) is revealed by being faithful, faithfulness, (πίστεως): as James wrote (Ja 2:14-18)
 - James: works reveal the new nature; Paul: works reveal the old nature, pride of self-rightness, being above God

If Gospel Reveals, Then...

- Paul has subtly introduced his first argument of logic
 - If, the Gospel reveals and instills God's rightness
 - Then, those changed will also reveal God's rightness in themselves; not their rightness (Works of sin)
- Paul does not answer from his knowledge; his answer comes from the Old Testament; the Bible shows how God uses the Gospel knowledge to change people

Habakkuk (Hab 2:1-4)

- Habakkuk asked God why He allowed evil to exist in Judah; when God revealed plan of Babylon captivity, Habakkuk was appalled: but he did something unusual
 - Habakkuk waited for God to teach him, and God did so
 - Habakkuk told to write God's words plainly, easily read
 - God's word will come to pass in its appointed time
 - Justified lives faithful to God, waiting (Reflecting God) (He 11:13-16)

Justified not only reflects God's Grace back to God - Faith
Justified also reflects God's Grace out into the World - Lights in the World (Mt 5:14-16)

Justified Live by Faithfulness

- Paul's letter to Galatia, written before Romans, first uses Habakkuk's revelation (Ga 3:10-14)
 - Habakkuk contrasted the puffed soul of the lost with the one who lives faithfully in God's Gospel
 - Paul contrasts those who live by Law (Pride) with those who are justified, clothed in Christ (Ga 4:1-2, 30; 14:4-9; 2:21)
 - Blessing of Abraham comes to Gentiles through faith, this is the New Covenant; salvation (Indwelling Spirit) (2Co 5:17)

Living Faithfully Produces Endurance

- Hebrews tells believers to realize that living faithfully means endurance (ὑπομονή) in tribulation (He 10:36-39)
 - Perseverance of the Saints - Cannot come from within
 - As Christ did not shrink back from His tribulation due to indwelling Spirit, we have the same Spirit and will endure based on His power, not our own (He 11:1-2; 42:1-4)
 - Christ lives in us, He enables us to endure if we look to Him; thus, those clothed in His rightness live faithfully (Ga 2:20)
ὑπομονή is a military term: Stay where placed. Usually referred to the rear guard
As the main force retreated, the rear guard would keep the enemy at bay
Christ, via Paul, tells Christians to stand, we are to watch God at work (Ep 6:13-14)

Justified Faithful Shall Live

- Paul concludes the Gospel is the means by which the justified shall gain life because of the power of the Gospel of God shown by living faithfully in the World
 - This does not come within a person else one could glory before God based on fleshly endurance (1Co 1:29)
 - Shall live (ζήσεται) - Future middle indicative: shall live looks to some future time as established fact, not from one's own effort; living reflections of Christ (1Co 15:42-50)

Paul Segues from Intro to Theology

- Paul skillfully segues from his introduction, luring the reader into his first theological truth - God Alone
 - Faithful have no cause for gloating since perseverance does not come from the flesh but from the Spirit
 - Jews have no cause for gloating since they sought God via cultural nomism (Works of the Law)
 - Later, Paul details how Gentiles also cannot boast: Sin

Laying Foundation For the Lost

- Having discussed the position of the believer in relation to the power of the Gospel of God
 - Paul will illustrate how man lost his way, sinned, and how that continues affecting man and societies
 - Paul uses sweeping illustrations to keep from being bogged down in details as he is writing primarily to Gentiles who may or may not have OT knowledge

Are You Thankful?

- Reinforce the concept that Thankfulness is not simply an obligatory prayer form to appease God
 - It is the *new nature* reflecting back to God, in form and word, the totally undeserved Grace He has bestowed
 - Thankfulness is an expression of awe, reverence, and fear that but for the grace of God one would be lost forever; and rightfully condemned: "Fear of the Lord"
(Ph 1:1-30; Pr 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; 2Co 5:10-11)