



GRACE STUDIES: Not By Works

For 'no human being will be justified in his sight' by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. Romans 3:20-27

Romans is occasionally one of those books I want to run away from, it uses a lot of words that don't naturally roll off my tongue. Justified; Righteous; atonement... But his heart for the people can be felt.

Paul is writing a letter that is to be read out, like a sermon, to a group of people and he repeats himself to make a point. Read these verses out loud.

Go on!

Now put some passion into it.

Paul is getting excited as he writes this to followers in Rome. He wants them to know the amazing-ness of what Jesus has done for them. To quote a tweet that has just appeared on my feed 'Promote what you love rather than bash what you hate'. Paul is promoting the One he loves the most – Jesus. He is promoting the gift of being saved by faith in Jesus.

Being made right with God, is not by anything we can do but rather by what Jesus has done for us.

Take time to sit and think, what does that mean for you – YOU are not saved by anything you can do, but rather what Jesus has done for you? What difference does that make in your life?

Lord, help me to know what it means to be saved by grace and live as someone who is saved. Amen.