



Woodmont Beacon

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Justification by Faith, not by Works of the Law-Rm 1-8

By: Steven Locklair

The apostle Paul wrote by inspiration to the brethren at Rome, about the year 58 AD. Christ was declared to be God's Son (through the resurrection), leading to the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel, knowing that it is God's power to save all people regardless of their race, gender, nationality, or socio-economic status. The just will live by faith in the gospel, but God's wrath is against those who suppress the truth that He is the Creator by their ungodly deeds. Since they refuse to acknowledge, honor, and give thanks to God, He gives them up to their lustful desires to practice things that are worthy of death (hating God, homosexuality, greed, gossip, envy, slander, deceit, etc.).

In Romans 2, the Jews were condemning the Gentiles (while practicing the same things), and thought they would escape the judgment of God. Because of their stubborn heart, they were storing up wrath for themselves, when God will impartially judge everyone by their deeds. They needed to realize that if they are teaching others, they must be in compliance with the law, lest they be considered hypocrites, and cause God's name to be blasphemed among the Gentiles. They needed to be circumcised in their heart, so that their praise would come from God, and not men.

In Romans 3, the Jews and Gentiles are both charged by God as being sinners who fell short of God's glory. All are justified by faith, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, not by the works of the Law of Moses.

In Romans 4, Paul argued that justification by faith was evidenced by Abraham's life. He was not justified by works of human merit (i.e. the Law of Moses), or else he would have something to boast about, but not before God. God reckons righteousness apart from works, as quoted by David, "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered, blessed is the man who sin the Lord will not take into account." The promise given to Abraham was not given through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. Abraham was justified by faith while he was uncircumcised (when he believed in God's promise that he would be the father of many nations), even though he and Sarah were past the age of childbearing. Those who believe in God (who raised Jesus from the dead), are those who have the faith of Abraham, and will be a fellow heir of the promise given to him.

In Romans 5, since we have been justified by faith, we now have peace with God, so that we can exult in the hope of God's glory. This helps us to be joyful in trials, so that we can persevere in them, which proves our character, and fortifies our hope which will never disappoint us. We need to remember that, while we were still helpless, hopeless, and godless; Christ died for us. What a great blessing it is to realize that we can be reconciled to God through His death, and be delivered from the wrath to come. Through Adam, sin entered the world, which separated him from God, and we imitate his example when we transgress God's law. But even though lawlessness increased, grace abounded even more, so that grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Woodmont church of Christ

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes for all ages at 9:30
Worship Assembly at 10:30

Sunday Afternoon

Worship Assembly at 5:00

Wednesday Evening

Bible Classes for all ages at 7:30

Evangelist

Steven Locklair

Elders

Bruce Tilley
Brett Narmore

Website

<http://woodmontchurch.org>

Contact Us

817-292-4908
woodmontchurch@sbcglobal.net

Address

6417 Landview Dr.
P.O. Box 330998
Fort Worth, TX 76163

Welcome visitors!

You are our honored guest. Please take a moment to complete a visitor's card and let us know if there is anything we can do for you in a spiritual way. We would love to study the Bible further with you or talk about the church here at Woodmont if you are new to the area or would like to become a member.

Justification by Faith, not by Works of the Law, cont.

In Romans 6, Paul anticipated those who would contend that we should sin all the more so that we can receive more grace. No, we died to sin, when we were buried with Christ in baptism, and have now risen to walk in a new life. We must not let sin reign in our body, for we are under grace, which means that we choose to obey from the heart the teaching of Christ, which leads to sanctification and eventually eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Romans 7, Paul spoke to Jewish brethren who understand that the law has jurisdiction as long as a person lives. He uses the analogy of the husband-wife relationship and God's law to help them understand that they are released from the law of Moses. Even as the wife is released from the law to her husband when he dies, so they now can be joined to the body of Christ, just like a woman has the authority to marry another man (and not be considered an adulteress). The Law of Moses was not evil (but holy, righteous, and good), but helped you to understand what sin is and how it can kill you. Paul wasn't born a sinner, but when the commandment came, he broke it and died spiritually. Paul admitted that the Law is good, but his flesh was sold into the bondage of sin to practice it, even though he wanted to do what's right. Who would set him free of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, Paul replied.

In Romans 8, Paul taught there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ. God sent His Son as an offering for sin, and by doing that, He condemned sin. Those who are fleshly minded are hostile toward God's law, but those who are spiritually minded have life and peace in Christ. If you are fleshly minded, you must die, but if you are putting the deeds of the body to death by the Spirit, you will live. If you are a child of God, you are an heir. If you suffer with Christ, you will be glorified with Him. What we suffer now is nothing in comparison to the glory which shall be revealed to us, who with perseverance eagerly wait for His return and the redemption of our bodies. Everything will work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose, and are conformed to the image of Christ. Since God didn't spare His own Son for us, we can endure through anything in this life (tribulation, distress, persecution, peril, or the sword). We are more than conquerors, because of the love of God which was demonstrated in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Noteworthy News

-**Gayle Webster** was able to go home on Wednesday.

-**Bill Moore** is doing better & is doing some PT.
June Moore went home from the hospital on Friday.

-**Mitzi Divens** (moved from Weatherford) is having radiation treatments for breast cancer.

-Recovering from surgeries: **Bruce Tilley, Joy Narmore, Gary & Gayle Webster, Julie Perkins**

-Several facilities are in lockdown. This affects the **Moore's & Evelyn Anderson, Ron (Bonnie's brother)**.

Remember- **Julie Perkins, Tom & Shirley Thompson, Andrew & Jennifer Locklair, David & Robert Jones, Brett's mom, Katy Jones, Barbara Johnson, Dottie Burns, June Moore, Stan Cox, Kevin & Cassie Williams, Dennis Scroggins, Gaylon Brown, Bruce Tilley, Bonnie Gary, Marie Bolton, Ron Daley, Jan King, Lonell Plyler, Melissa Simpson, Jan Gay, Dora Frisbee, Jenny Hardwick, Donna Lewis, Jackie Branch, Paul Simpson, Melodie Smith, Chip Foster, Terry Jordan (sinus surgery), Auree Noll, Elaine Locklair, Gail Contee** (positive COVID-19 from Brenham)

- **The elders** announced that we will be postponing our gospel meeting until later in the summer. We will continue a short service at the building at 10:30 to partake of the Lord's supper, sing a few hymns, with a short exhortation. At 5 PM we will study together on WebEx. On Wednesday at 7:30 PM we will study Daniel 9 on WebEx.



Prayer Requests

Sick/Shut-In:

- **Ada Scott**
- **Bill and June Moore**
- **Jan Gay**
- **Gary & Gayle Webster**
- **Dennis Scroggins**
- **Katy Jones**
- **Kevin Williams, Sr.**
- **Joy Narmore**

Our Elders

- **Bruce Tilley**
- **Brett Narmore**

Our Deacons

- **Jeff Gary**
- **Gary Webster**
- **Kyle Austin**

Calendar

Men We Support

- **Dennis Scroggins**