

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

9 - So What's the REAL Reason Jesus Died on the Cross?

Romans 3:25b-31

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa

“God is righteous. This means that he recognizes, welcomes, loves and upholds with infinite jealousy and energy what is infinitely valuable, namely, the worth of God. God’s righteous passion and delight is to display and uphold his infinitely valuable glory. This is not a vague theological conjecture. It flows inevitably from dozens of biblical texts that show God in the relentless pursuit of praise and honor from creation to consummation.”

~John Piper; *Let the Nations Be Glad*, p22

Four Ways The Cross Is ALL About the Glory of God

1. The Cross Puts God’s Righteousness on Display for All to See! (Rom. 3:25b-26)

Rom. 3:25 “... whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, **to demonstrate His righteousness**, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

God’s forbearance doesn’t mean sin goes unnoticed, or that He chooses to let sin go unpunished. Instead, it’s a demonstration of the patient love He has for His people—His bride—the Church.

2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

Although God’s invisible attributes are “clearly seen” from the very beginning of creation (Rom. 1:20), the ultimate demonstration of God’s righteousness was on the cross of Christ. It is there where we see His justice as Christ bears the punishment we deserve, and his mercy as we’re justified as a result of Christ’s death.

Rom. 3:26 “to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, **that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**”

Psa. 85:10 “Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.”

2. The Cross Shows God’s Grace Towards Sinners Like Us! (Rom. 3:27-28)

Rom. 3:27,28 “²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

Paul reminds us—again—that justification is by grace through faith, and has nothing to do with one's works.

What do you boast in—outwardly or inwardly—when you think or speak of your Salvation?

7 Things People Boast In, But Neither Prove Nor Disprove Salvation:

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| (1) "I'm a good person." | (Rich Young Ruler – Mt. 19:16ff) |
| (2) "I really know my Bible." | (Pharisees – Rom. 2:17-24) |
| (3) "I go to church." | (Parable of the Ten Virgins – Matt. 25:1-13) |
| (4) "I lead and serve." | (Judas – Matt. 7:21ff) |
| (5) "I feel bad when I sin." | (Judas – Matt. 26:47ff; 27:3-8) |
| (6) "I just know I'm saved." | (Matt. 7:21-23; James 1:22) |
| (7) "I made a decision." | (Matt. 7:21-23; James 1:22) |
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9 Things That Are Characteristic of Genuine Saving Faith:

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| (1) Love for God | (Rom. 8:7; 1 Cor. 16:22) |
| (2) Repentance from Sin | (Prov. 28:13; 2 Cor. 7:9,10) |
| (3) Genuine Humility | (Philp. 2:5ff; Matt. 16:24) |
| (4) Devotion to God's Glory | (1 Cor. 10:31) |
| (5) Continual Prayer | (1 Thess. 5:17; James 5:16ff) |
| (6) Selfless Love | (1 John 2:9ff; 3:14; 4:7ff) |
| (7) Separation from the World | (1 John 2:15-17) |
| (8) Spiritual Growth | (Eph. 4:12-16) |
| (9) Obedient Living | (John 15:14ff) |

3. The Cross Shows That The LORD is God Over ALL! (Rom. 3:29-30)

Rom. 3:29,30 *"²⁹ Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith."*

4. The Cross Proves God's Law to be True, and Gives Us Hope to Obey! (Rom. 3:29-30)

Rom. 3:31 *"Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we **establish the law.**"*

At the cross, Christ paid the penalty for our sin, and God the Father was satisfied.

Rom. 3:24,25 *"²⁴ being justified freely by His grace **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness*

At the cross, the purpose of the law is shown in bringing people to saving faith.

Gal. 3:24

²⁴ Therefore **the law was our tutor to *bring us to Christ***, that we might be justified by faith.

At the cross, Christians are given hope in fulfilling God's law. We can say "No!" to sin and "Yes!" to God!

Rom. 8:3,4

³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who **do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**.