

- I. Introduction (1:1-17)
- II. Credenda: “The Righteous by Faith” Shall Live (1:18-11:36)
 - A. God’s Wrath vs. Unrighteousness (1:18-3:20)
 - B. The Revelation of God’s Righteousness (3:21-4:25)
 - C. The Triumph of God’s Righteousness (5-8)
 - 5:1-11 Having been *justified*, we rejoice in hope of *God’s glory*
 - 5:12-19 Adam failed to lead to glory; Christ shall succeed
 - 5:20-7:25 The law failed to lead to glory; Christ shall succeed
 - 5:20-21 The law failed because of sin; Christ succeeds by grace
 - 6:1-7:25 Answering questions. *Since the law cannot justify...*
 - 6:1-14 *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*
 - 6:15-7:6 *Shall we sin because not under law but grace?*
 - 7:7-12 *Is the law sin?*
 - 7:13-25 *Is the law to blame for my sin?*
 - 8:1-39 All those whom God justifies, these He also glorifies
 - D. The Universality of God’s Righteousness (9-11)
- III. Agenda: The Righteous “Shall Live by Faith” (12-15:13)
- IV. Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

God’s Law and Self-Evaluation

Romans, Part XXXV

Romans 7:13-25, Part Two

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Hamburg, anyone?

II. Reviewing Romans 5-8

Romans 7:13–25

¹³Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is good*. ¹⁷But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹For the good that I will to *do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not to *do*, that I practice. ²⁰Now if I do what I will not to *do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²²For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

III. The Law and Self-Evaluation

The Spirit is bringing us to glory by the grace of God – to do so, He teaches us “*to put off... the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and... [to] put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness*” (Eph 4:22, 24). As part of this process, the Spirit enables us to view ourselves rightly; He empowers us “*not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think but to think of ourselves with sober judgment*” (12:3).

A. Evidences of Remaining Corruption – The Works of the Flesh (Gal 5:19-21)

Paul recognizes the many ways in which he falls short of God’s moral law. God’s law exposes our sinfulness. While God’s law cannot change us, it can speak the truth about our sin. As Paul writes to the Galatians:

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Spirit often shows us ways in which these sins continue to characterize our lives. He places us in the furnace of affliction so that we will see our remaining corruption. **The _____ the Spirit is at work, the _____ we make excuses for our remaining corruption** (cf. 1 Tim 1:15).

B. Evidences of Grace – The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25)

Second, Paul is able to see evidences of grace in his life. By nature, “*there is none who does good, no, not one*” (Rom 3:12c). Yet Paul is able to see evidences of God’s grace in His life. So Paul writes to the Galatians:

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Those who are in Christ have *crucified the flesh* – our old man has died with Christ and the Spirit has given us new life. As we see evidences of His work in our lives, let us rejoice in them. **The _____ the Spirit is at work, the _____ we ignore the evidences of His grace in our lives** (1 Cor 15:10).

C. Glimpses of Christ – The Glory of our Savior

Third, **the _____ the Spirit is at work, the _____ we will focus upon ourselves and the _____ we will focus upon Christ our Savior.** Paul is most keenly aware of his continuing need for Jesus. “*O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!*” (7:24-25a) Robert Murray McCheyne wrote, “*For every look at yourself take _____ looks at Christ.*”

The Spirit uses God’s law to highlight evidences of our remaining corruption and to drive us to _____ *for forgiveness*. The Spirit uses God’s law to highlight evidences of grace and to drive us to _____ *in thankfulness*. Biblical self-evaluation always draws our eyes away from self to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

IV. The Danger of False Guilt

¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:12-14)

Paul acknowledges his remaining corruption, but he does not wallow in it. When the Spirit is at work on our sin, He will convict us of our sin, move us to confess our sin to the Lord, and then move us forward in faith, rejoicing in the forgiveness of Christ and seeking His grace to empower us for more faithfulness.

Lou Priolo identifies three types of negative assessments of ourselves:

- Inaccurate assessments.
- Accurate but not _____.
- Accurate and _____.

V. Conclusion