

Letters

Listen to the teaching of Paul in his letter to the Romans 3:19-31

Now we know that what the Law says is said to those under the Law. Therefore, let every mouth be silenced, and let all of humankind be open to God's judgment. This is because we are not justified in the sight of God by keeping the Law: law only makes us aware of sin.

But now the justice of God has been manifested apart from the Law, even though both Law and prophets bear witness to it; the justice of God works through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. There are no exceptions: everyone has sinned; everyone falls short of the glory of God. Yet everyone has also been undeservedly justified by the gift of God, through the redemption wrought in Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a propitiatory sacrifice, for the atonement of all who have faith in Christ's blood. And God did so to manifest divine justice—because God showed forbearance by remitting sins committed in the past, in order to demonstrate divine justice in the present—so that the Most High might be both a just judge and the One who justifies those who believe in Jesus.

What room is there then for boasting? It is ruled out. In what law do we boast—the law of works? No: only the law of faith. We maintain that one is justified by faith—apart from keeping the Law. Does God belong to the Jews alone? Isn't God also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles too. And because there is only one God, it is the same God who will justify Jew and Gentile through the same faith. Do we then render the Law null and void? Not at all—we give the Law its true value!

For the witness of early Christ communities,

We give thanks.

Gospel

Hear words of faith in the Gospel according to John 8:31-38.

Jesus said to those who believed in him,

“If you live according to my teaching,
you really are my disciples;
then you'll know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”

“We're descendants of Sarah and Abraham,” they replied. “Never have we been the slaves of anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You'll be free’?”

Jesus answered them,

“The truth of the matter is,
everyone who lives in sin
is the slave of sin.

Now a slave doesn't always remain part of a household;

an heir, however, is a member of that house forever.

So if the heir—the Only Begotten—makes you free,

you will be free indeed

I know that you're descended from Sarah and Abraham;
but in spite of that you want to kill me
because my message has found no room in you.

I speak of what I have seen with Abba God,
and you do what you learned from your parents.

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in us.

We give thanks.