

Romans 3:31-4:5

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 3:31 When a sinner is confronted by the majesty, power, and justice of God, he cannot help seeing the worthlessness of his own works.
- 2) 3:31 The reason the Law was given was to show mankind God's standard of righteousness and to demonstrate that those same standards are impossible to meet in our own capacity.
- 3) The Cross confirms the Law in three ways:
 - The cross of Jesus establishes the Law by paying our penalty of death—The Law demanded death for failing to meet the righteous requirements. When Jesus said He came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17), He was speaking not only of His sinless life, but also of His perfect sacrificial death while taking our sin to the cross.
 - The Cross of Jesus establishes the Law by driving mankind to faith—“...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified” Acts 3:20; “The Law has become our tutor, to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith” Galatians 3:24.
 - The Cross of Jesus establishes the Law by fulfilling the Law in us—“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us” Romans 8:3-4.
- 4) 3:31 If it is impossible to fulfill the Old Testament Law, how much harder is it to keep the standards announced by Jesus (Matthew 5:21–22, 27-28)?
- 5) 3:31 The ultimate purpose of the Law is to drive mankind to God.
- 6) 4:1-2 Abraham was used by the rabbis as the ultimate example of man being justified by works. Paul wanted to demonstrate that the Bible clearly teaches Abraham was saved by his faith.

- 7) 4:3 Old Testament saints were saved by looking forward to a time they could not see (John 8:56).
- 8) 4:3 Abraham did not work for his salvation; he simply trusted God's Word. It was Jesus who did the work on the cross, and His work was transferred to Abraham's account.
- 9) 4:4-5 Until a person confesses that he is ungodly, he is not a candidate for salvation because he still trusts in his own goodness (Luke 5:32).
- 10) 4:4-5 God justifies the ungodly, not simply by disregarding our sin but by having imputed our sin to Christ (Isaiah 53:4–5).

GREEK WORDS

Histēmi (his'-tay-mee)—to stand :- abide, continue, establish, hold up, stand (by)
 Logizomai (log-id'-zom-ahee)—take an inventory, estimate :- (ac-) count (of), impute, lay, number, reckon

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