**The Swift Death of Human Boasting: Justification by Faith Alone**

**(Romans 3:27-31)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In what way(s) are you tempted toward self-reliance and self-salvation? In what things are you tempted to boast? How do the doctrines of total depravity (total inability) and justification by faith remove our right to boast? How does this both glorify God and bring us joy? What other passages illustrate Paul’s attitude toward boasting? In what does he find joy in boasting? What is the central focus of our salvation? Why?
2. In your own words, explain how God has always justified (declared not guilty, pardoned) his sinful children by faith and not works. What do Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 55:1-5, and Isaiah 56:1-8 illustrate about God’s saving purposes for nations other than Israel? How should the doctrines of universal human sinfulness and salvation by grace through faith impact: Our relationships with non-Christians? Our efforts and attitudes in evangelism and missions? Our confidence in the gospel?
3. What objection was Paul anticipating from his Jewish counterparts in verse 31? According to verse 31, how is the law “upheld” by Jesus Christ? What function does the law have in our lives before being saved by grace? What role does the law have in our lives after being saved by grace? How does Romans 8:2-4 help us understand this question?
4. In your own words, explain how Romans 3:27-31 is a continuation from last week’s passage (Rom. 3:21-26). How is a proper understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ related to boasting? What does a prideful or self-reliant attitude reveal about one’s understanding of the gospel of grace? In your own words, explain what is meant by the following: “God’s glory is central in salvation and the true source of our joy.”