

“<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.” Romans 3:37-30

### What is Bad Boasting?

#### Why Faith Excludes Boasting?

- *Because of What It Admits*
  
- *Because of How It Works*
  
- *Because of Where It Comes From*
  
- *Because of What It Looks To*

“<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” – Jeremiah 9:23&24

## Small Group Questions

### Romans 3:27-30

**Big Idea:** Starting with verse 27 and going all the way to chapter 5, Paul now focuses his attention defining and illustrating what saving faith actually is.

Have your group answer this question with one-word answers: *Faith is* \_\_\_\_\_.

### Read Romans 3:23-30

1. When Paul begins his extended discussion defining the nature of faith, he starts where we might not. He says faith **excludes boasting**. Look up the definition of “boasting” in your English, Greek, and Hebrew dictionaries. What do you find?
2. When it comes to our relationship with God, there can be *good* and *bad* boasting. How so? Share some passages that speak about both.
3. Read Judges 7:1-7. a) What do you learn about the human heart from this passage, including what our true enemy is? b) How does Judges 7:2 connect to Paul’s definition of sin in Romans 3:23 (cf. 1 Cor. 4:7)?
4. God saves Israel *through* Gideon’s army. But He makes it so puny so that it is unmistakable He alone is the one saving. God wants us to see that *the faith we receive Jesus with* as being similar (e.g., like a beggars’ open hand receiving a feast). On Sunday we walked through the following reasons why faith eliminates all boasting. Work through each one & discuss how they undermine self-reliance and self-glory.

### **Faith Excludes Boasting...**

- Because of What It Admits (3:23-26; 4:1-5): A person with faith admits some very ugly facts about themselves.
- Because of How It Works (3:21-22): Faith is merely an instrument God uses to save us; it is not what saves us.
- Because of Where It Comes From (Philippians 1:29; Eph 2:8&9): Faith is ultimately a gift from God.
- Because of What It Looks To (3:24-26): Seeing/believing everything that Jesus has done should cause us to renounce all credit in our salvation.

**End your time praying the truths of Jeremiah 9:23 &24.**

### Resources

Romans: *Righteousness from Heaven* | R. Kent Hughes.

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

[www.preceptaustin.org](http://www.preceptaustin.org)