

Acts 13:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Analysis

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses—Paul articulates justification by faith alone, his signature doctrine. The contrast is stark: **by him** (ἐν τούτῳ) versus **by the law of Moses** (ἐν νόμῳ Μωϋσέως). **All that believe are justified** (πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων δικαιοῦται) makes faith, not works, the instrumental cause. **From all things** (ἀπὸ πάντων) indicates comprehensive righteousness covering every sin—what the law exposed but couldn't remedy. The law revealed sin's standard but lacked power to forgive or transform. Christ provides both.

Historical Context

This is Paul's earliest recorded statement on justification by faith, predating Romans and Galatians. The Jewish audience would have understood 'law of Moses' as the entire Torah system including sacrifices, which provided ritual cleansing but not ultimate forgiveness (Hebrews 10:4). Paul's gospel here provoked both interest (v.42) and violent opposition (v.45, 50).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does justification 'from all things' address sins the law couldn't cover?
2. In what areas do you still try to achieve standing with God through performance rather than faith in Christ?

Interlinear Text

καί ἀπό πᾶς ὃν οὐκ ἤδυνήθητε ἐν τῷ νόμῳ
And from all from which not ye could by G3588 the law
G2532 G575 G3956 G3739 G3756 G1410 G1722 G3551

Μωσέως δικαιοῦται ἐν τούτῳ πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων
of Moses are justified by him all G3588 that believe
G3475 G1344 G1722 G5129 G3956 G4100

δικαιοῦται

are justified

G1344

Additional Cross-References

Romans 10:4 (Faith): For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Galatians 2:16 (Faith): Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Romans 8:3 (Word): For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Hebrews 7:19 (Word): For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Romans 10:10 (Faith): For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 8:1 (Parallel theme): There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 4:15 (Word): Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Romans 3:19 (Word): Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

John 1:17 (Word): For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:11 (Parallel theme): And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org