

Romans 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Analysis

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Paul's definitive summary: logizometha oun pistei dikaiousthai anthrōpon chōris ergōn nomou (λογιζόμεθα οὖν πίστει δικαιοῦσθαι ἀνθρωπον χωρὶς ἔργων νόμου, "we reckon therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law"). Logizometha (λογιζόμεθα, "we reckon/conclude")—this is not speculation but reasoned conclusion from Scripture.

Pistei (πίστει, "by faith")—instrumental dative: faith is the means. Chōris ergōn nomou (χωρὶς ἔργων νόμου, "apart from works of law")—not merely "in addition to" but "apart from," excluding works as either ground or instrument of justification. This is the Reformation's clarion call: justification by faith alone (sola fide). Not faith plus works, but faith that works (Galatians 5:6). The Reformers added "alone" to clarify Paul's meaning, not distort it—works are the fruit, never the root, of justification.

Historical Context

This verse became the battle cry of the Protestant Reformation. Luther called it "the article by which the church stands or falls." Medieval Catholicism taught justification by faith plus works; Paul and the Reformers insisted: faith alone, though never alone—faith that justifies also sanctifies.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you truly rest in justification by faith alone, or do you subtly trust in your spiritual progress?
2. How do you distinguish between faith alone (excluding works as ground) and living faith (producing works as fruit)?
3. Why is the "alone" in "faith alone" worth dying for—what's at stake in this doctrine?

Interlinear Text

λογιζόμεθα οὖν πίστει δικαιοῦσθαι ἀνθρωπον χωρὶς
we conclude Therefore by faith is justified that a man without
G3049 G3767 G4102 G1344 G444 G5565

ἔργων νόμου
the deeds of the law
G2041 G3551

Additional Cross-References

Titus 3:7 (Righteousness): That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Galatians 3:8 (Faith): And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Romans 3:26 (Faith): To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

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:

James 2:24 (Faith): Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Galatians 3:24 (Faith): Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

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 4:5 (Faith): But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Ephesians 2:9 (Parallel theme): Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 5:1 (Faith): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: