



Calling deserters back to the gospel  
Mark 14:72

NOVEMBER 15, 2009

## THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR JUSTIFICATION

**T h e w o r k o f J e s u s r e m o v e s  
o u r b o a s t i n g .**

**H e a r** ☼

*Read Romans 3.23-31*

In the opening third of Paul's letter to the Romans (chapters 1-5), Paul deals with the issue of boasting. (Note: in this section your translations may render this idea and the verbs around it in a number of ways including "to boast," "to exult," "to rejoice," or "to glory.") He lists being boastful in his indictment against the nations (cf. 1.30), but he continues with the idea in the church; that we use our law-keeping to boast before God (2.17-23). After this section in Romans 3, he holds onto the theme discussing Abraham's inability to boast before God (4.2), and ends with proper boasting in Christ and in our affliction for Christ's sake in (5.2-11). As you read Romans 3 this week, consider what is wrong in our natural boasting, and why it is good news that our boasting (in ourselves) has been removed.

**L o v e** ☼

How does receiving a gift take away our ability to boast in ourselves?

In our boasting (especially in Romans 2.17-23) what are we trying to demonstrate?

According to this passage, what is God demonstrating in the gospel?

Where should this direct our boasting?

**P r o c l a i m** ☼

Take time this week to consider where you are tempted to boast. What things make you swell with pride? What things about yourself or your accomplishments do you find yourself rehearsing (privately or in front of others)? How will you proclaim the good news that your boasting has been removed? How will you proclaim Jesus to each other by boasting in him and what he has done?



This section of Romans says a lot about faith and boasting, but it also deals with the law. How does our faith (and our new boasting in Christ) affect our relationship to the law? Do we throw it out? What becomes of it? And what does this mean for the seeming problem of the law in Romans 1-4? Is the problem in the law or somewhere else?

