

Eleutheros Newsletter

October 2026

Thoughts on Romans

3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall be no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin.*

~*By the deeds of the Law* (ἐξ ἔργων νόμου in the Greek) is literally “out of works of a law.” Mosaic Law and any other law are not the source of being set right with God.

Many today have the notion that they will *probably somehow* make it to heaven because they have never been convicted under the laws of a nation or a state. God says differently!

The word ἐξ suggests a source. Man’s laws (even obedience to them) are not a source of gaining a perfect relationship with the One God.

And it is not the purpose of the Mosaic Law to produce a right relationship with God either!

This truth makes all laws ineffective regarding man’s need for salvation. Of course, all men should obey the laws of men (see [Romans 13:1](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-3](#)). God makes it clear and there are consequences for disobedience.

The purpose of obedience to man’s laws is for orderliness in society: in the church, in the family, in our relations with other people (see [Colossians 3:17-4:1](#)).

What is the purpose of the Mosaic Law? Paul makes it clear that it produces “the knowledge of sin” (ἐπίγνωσις ἁμαρτίας in the Greek). The word for knowledge is best understood to mean *perfect knowledge* or *complete knowledge*. Even unsaved people will eventually admit their awareness of sin in their lives when confronted with this issue, but because of their depravity (and rejection of Christ as the only way to salvation; see John 14:6), they continue in a rebellious state.

This rebellion is common to both Jews and Gentiles (see [Romans 3:9](#)).

Ignorance, rebellion, and lawlessness certainly cannot produce *justification* in God’s sight.

Paul explains how justification is produced later in Romans: *Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ* ([5:1](#)).

Salvation is a gift of grace that is produced by faith, not any law!

What does this gift produce? Answer: Peace with God!

May God's people share the gracious loving message of the Gospel to all who desperately are clinging to their misguided views and attitudes!

Share His Love

William J. Reynolds

*All those who have trusted in God's only Son,
And hold this precious treasure in their hearts,
Seek to make it known to all who need to know
That God so loved the world His only Son He gave.*

We will continue these thoughts on Romans in next month's newsletter.