

A Law and faith. Romans 3:31.

- ❖ As Romans 3:31 explains, faith and law are not mutually exclusive. Faith confirms the law.
- ❖ **The faith of Abraham. Romans 4:1-5.**
 - Abraham received justice by faith and not by works. He was still an uncircumcised gentile when he was saved (because Israel didn't exist yet).
 - That contradicted those who thought that Christians had to become Jews to be saved.
- ❖ **The faith of David. Romans 4:6-8.**
 - How could David be free from his sin?
 - If he had thought he was justified by works, he would have tormented himself. Maybe he could've made many pilgrimages or sacrificed thousands of animals.
 - He knew that only God may forgive him by grace alone.

B The role of the law.

- ❖ **The law and the promise. Romans 4:9-17.**
 - The promise of salvation that Abraham received was before the law, so he could be saved only by faith. The law was not involved in his salvation
- ❖ **Law and salvation. Galatians 3:21-23.**
 - Non-Christian religions teach that we can have eternal life by doing something (Going on a pilgrimage, meditating, sacrificing oneself...)
 - The Jewish religion embraced the idea that salvation came by strictly fulfilling the law.
 - Even the Christian Church followed this mistake. But Luther and other Reformers brought the old truth back:
 - ✓ ***we are saved by faith alone.***
 - The law can only condemn us. It cannot save us at all.
- ❖ **Law and sin. Romans 3:20.**
 - The law shows us what we should do and stop doing to avoid sinning against God.
 - Can we eradicate sin by removing the law?
 - In that case, Christ wouldn't have had to die for our sins. If the law could've been abolished, then no sacrifice was actually needed.
 - Ignoring the law doesn't make murdering or lying no longer a sin.
 - The law is the declaration of God's will that comes from His character. Therefore, it cannot be changed or removed.