HOW TO BOAST AS A CHRISTIAN

Bertie Brits

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Greetings! It is a great blessing for me to speak to you on the grace of God. We are walking through the book of Romans and I am going to talk about how to boast as a Christian.

Father, I want to thank You so much that we can gather today where this message of grace, Your influence on humanity, the love that You have for people, can be ministered. And that Your message can be heralded all over the world as the only truth. Thank You that we can have the hope of eternal life, that we can have the fruit of the Spirit in our life today, all on account of You! You are such a responsible God! Therefore, You have taken Your responsibility to bring holiness to us as a free gift. Thank You for that, Lord, and that You speak powerfully through me today. Amen and amen

Today, I am going to talk about how to boast as a Christian.

Romans 4:

- 1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
- 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he has whereof to glory; but not before God. (He has something to boast about but not before God.)

Romans 5:

- 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice (we glory) in hope of the glory of God.
- 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience;
- 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
- 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
- 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

When we talk about Romans chapter 5, I must say that deciding to go through it verse by verse, was in the beginning was wonderful. I was so excited to share all of this but as I got along doing this, I realized how difficult it is to do that because there is so much history that we need to get into. In these Sunday messages, I don't want it just to be boring, deep, theological teaching which get into so much detail that people feel that they cannot apply to everyday life. But that has placed me in a place where I can just open my heart and say, "God, thank You that I can minister this in a way that is interesting to people and can really learn something from this theological, historic, understanding of the scriptures that is applicable to them today.

When we look at our own lives, many times we look at things when it goes well with us and we feel that God is with us and we want to boast. But when things don't go that well, we find that we don't know what to say. We are really in a difficult time, going through situations that we don't exactly know what to say about these things.

Now I would like to explain boasting in the context of how it was seen by the Jews. Now, we ae going to look at the context of boasting. According to the Jews and the Gentiles, what is boasting?

Ephesians 2:

11 Wherefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time you were without Christ, (Listen carefully. This is now the condition of the Gentiles.) being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Jews were righteous

| being Abraham's seed |
|---|
| of circumcision (because they were circumcised as they were a sign that they were |
| children of Abraham. They thought that was part of their righteousness being |
| Israelites, the descendants of Abraham |
| having the law (that put them in a little bit of a higher category there) |
| having God as their God |
| and they had that great knowledge of Him |
| |

The point I am trying to make here is that the Jewish people, of that time, boasted in the fact that God was their God. They boasted in the fact that God was their God and not the God of all people. They boasted in the fact that they were the descendants of Abraham and that God made Abraham a promise and that promise shall now be fulfilled to them, Abraham's seed. God then said, "I am going to give you a sign that the promise was made to you", and that sign was circumcision. So, they boasted in the fact that they were of the descendants of Abraham, that physical circumcision was theirs, and that they were Israelites, a specific nation that called themselves, the sons of God.

God says in Scripture, "Israel is My son." So, they said, "We are an eternal nation. We are God's son. We are born of God as a nation. We were a nothing and then God brought us forth. We are the nation that has the oracles of God. We are in the right lineage. Our flesh makes us special because we are Israelites and the promise was made to Israel, It means that the fact that I am an Israelite makes me righteous for the blessing. It qualifies me for the blessing." That is what these people were saying.

Then they boasted that they had the law and the other people had manmade laws. The Israelites thought they had God's law, the advice that comes from God. Then they would believe that they would inherit the Gentiles. They believe that they inherited all the Gentiles and then they would be a light unto the nations and how it looks when you are under the blessings of God. That's what they boasted in. They boasted in the fact that God was their God, that they had the law, that they were of a specific tribe. That's what they boasted in.

If you read Romans, that boasting played a massive role in what Paul was trying to communicate. Whenever you read about boasting or rejoicing or joying, those are all the same Greek words. We are going to look at that. What Paul, many times, was referring to, what he was addressing, was the system where people felt that they were God's people under the law. And since they already thought that they were God's chosen and righteous in their flesh by being Jews, and the law was given to them, they would say, "Look how good we are! God has given us the law. We know what to do. We know how to serve God. You guys don't even know. You worship dead gods. Your god is no god! But, we have the true God!" That's what was going on.

Then when Jesus Christ came, He entered into the death of both Jew and Gentile. He ended this division between Jew and Gentile, brought one new man before God, which was just humans. He entered into their sin and death and then was raised from the dead, offering Himself as the Messiah of all people. Thus, bringing forth a system where there was no more boasting in the flesh where the Jews could not say, "We are special as a nation." Now I know that you might say, "Bertie, you are hammering on an anti-Semitic slant her. You should be careful with what you say."

I'm preaching through Romans, verse by verse here and that is what Paul is addressing. So, what must I say? If you have an issue with saying that Israel is not a special nation as a special people by the flesh, giving them some righteousness, you need to take this up with God, with the Lord Jesus, and with the apostles and with the writings in the Bible and explain why God is wrong saying that both Jew and Gentile are both sinners That there is no salvation by the flesh and that no flesh shall be justified before God, by the power of the flesh. We need to take them up with God. I'm preaching the truth in its context as the scripture declares here, and I want to bring that to you because, as you understand this, you'll start to see how we, as the church, to a certain degree, have brought over some of the old ways of doing, into Christianity. We've got as kind of a "chip on our shoulder' to a certain degree because 'we are the special people'. Listen: All people are the people of God!

All people, Jew, Gentile, saved, unsaved... whosoever! Jesus became the sin of all, conquered the sin of all! We, who are experiencing the Holy Spirit and the life of the Holy Spirit, are those who have called upon what God has brought for all people. No person can make his boast in the flesh. Yet, we, as Christians, can boast in a certain thing and I am going to talk about that and it will give us a good understanding of Romans.

Let me summarize what I am saying. Paul, especially in the first chapters up to ten in Romans, is really beating down the system wherein your identity is in Jewish flesh. He's beating that down. He's destroying, ending, that system and he is showing that you are not special because of your flesh. He, basically, sides a lot with the Gentiles and shows that they are also included in having the Messiah of "the Jews", which the Jews said was their Messiah, basically as the Messiah of all people. That God has always been the God of all people but that the Jewish system was only there and the law was only there to show that man, by his own ability, cannot save himself. They believed that the Jews were chosen to bring the message, "Look at us! We have tried. We are the vessels of dishonor showing that we cannot, by our own life, by our own works, bring honor to ourselves even if we know exactly what to do, and we implement our own ability. We cannot do it! Then he comes and uses this boasting thing and this boasting then should be seen as finding your identity in being a Jew and then mentioning that thinking that you are now special because of flesh.

In this boasting thing, Paul is now making an end of that boasting thing and he's saying, "I want to actually tell you how we, as Christians, now boast. We are not boasting anymore because we are of a certain ethnic group or a certain tribe or tongue, or anything like that. We are not boasting in the law. We are not boasting that we are the stock of Israel. We are not boasting in that we are now the light of other nations. We are boasting in none of those things but there are three things that we do boast in and of which one of that is the hope of the resurrection. That is what Paul is trying to communicate showing how weak man is in his own ability but that we can boast in what God gives and does towards us.

Now I want to go to Paul and boasting...

Romans 3:26

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believes in Jesus.

Paul is saying, "I have come to declare to you, at this time, His righteousness that He might be just and the justifier of him which believes in Jesus."

Let me explain that. What he is saying is, "We are not here to declare the righteousness of Judaism. We are not here to declare the righteousness of the law. We are not here to declare the righteousness of certain groups of people." Sadly, and you know that I've mentioned it many times, that there is a massive flow and a wave towards still honoring Israel as an ethnic group and thinking that they are special as a certain people. Many are thinking that God has a covenant with their flesh, with them as a people, and then think that from there, we as Gentiles, should bless Abraham and we should bless the descendants of Abraham.

So, there is beside the cross and all the blessings and the resurrection, the blessing, there is just something 'special' that is lingering around that and we bless Israel and we go to Israel and we do all those things. Well, I'm not saying that you should speak badly about the Jews. Not at all! Let us not speak badly about any person who God has made because God made man in His image. So, we love people... all groups of people. But, I do believe that as Paul comes and he is revealing in Romans, especially if you also go to Galatians, you'll find that he is saying, "Listen, man, if you cannot see this and you still continue on that old way, as what a lot of the church is going about today, you are falling from grace! You are falling from what God is doing and what He has done in Jesus Christ. You are being bewitched by people saying that the things of the old is not completely done and instead of going and utterly destroying the old things in saying that it is finished and God has made a new thing, they bring over some of the old into the new. According to Galatians, that's got a bewitching effect on a human's mind where you lose your mind.

I don't have time to teach on Galatians 3:1 now but Paul says, "Oh, foolish Galatians. Oh, you that have lost your mind, who has bewitched you?" Then he refers to 1Samuel 15, verse 23 onwards, where there was a bewitching effect on people by saying that we are going to take some of the goats from the heathen that was supposed to be destroyed and we are going to bring some of that over to make sacrifices to God. We still take some of the old bringing it into the new thing that God was going to do under the pretense of a sacrifice to God. We know what happened there. It was called like witchcraft. It's called bewitching. It's called evil. It's called iniquity.

We find the same thing today. So many times, we want to honor that and think that by doing that, doing those "special, extra things" as Christians, that there is some gateway to an anointing or whatever. Not many would believe this but we don't need many to believe something in order for it to be true. It just has to be true even if nobody believes it. I tell you to study the Scriptures in its context and you will see what I am trying to tell you here.

Romans 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness (Not how righteous you need to be but how righteous HE is): that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believe in Jesus.

He says that it's not about your righteousness but about how righteous He is in order to bring you salvation. Then the next verse, Paul comes to this conclusion:

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? No: but by the law of faith. Paul is saying that the moment that we are not declaring the righteousness of man anymore but how righteous Jesus is to bring forth salvation, how qualified He is to give us eternal life, the righteousness of Jesus was easily seen. It was in His resurrection and in who He is right now. How righteous, or, how in perfect condition to distribute life to people who trust Him, is Jesus. If I talk about the righteousness of Jesus, I am going to say that He is as He ought to be in order to be the Savior of dying, sinful, humanity, to preserve their lives. What gives Him that condition is the fact that He is above death, above sin, as He ought to be before the Father, flooded with the fulness of the Godhead, bodily.

And we are going to declare His righteousness so that He can be just, that He can be the One that distributes justice. That He would also justify, meaning and giving eternal life to those who believe upon Him. We can also say that we're going to declare not how righteous you must be by the works of the law. We are going to declare how righteous He is and how He is qualified and in full power to justify you with the very same life that He has, free from your works. We are not preaching our own righteousness. We are preaching how righteous **He** is... how qualified **He** is. So many times we want to be righteous, qualified, by our works but here in Romans 3, Paul preaches about His righteousness that he might be just and the Justifier of those who believe.

This immediately begs the question, "So what about boasting? What about this whole boasting thing where people would say, "God is our God. God has made us a special nation." So many times, we still think that God does that. That He has the special covenant with the special nation. That's rubbish! That what Old Covenant where God made a covenant with Israel saying, "Through them I will bring the Messiah" which was Jesus, which He did. He said, "I will be a light to the nations through Israel, the Israelites, and He brought forth a man from them because He could not have one that was naturally good enough. Therefore, He made His promise to bring forth the faithful servant, Jesus, and through Him brought life.

When we look at boasting, Paul says, "Where is boasting then? It's excluded." If we say that boasting is excluded, it means that there is no more thing where you can feel special because you are the seed of Abraham, of circumcision, of being an Israelite, of having the law, having God as yours only as your God and that only you have the knowledge of Him. We cannot now say that there is a group of people that is without Christ, that are aliens of the Commonwealth of Israel, that are strangers from the covenants, that has no hope or that's without God in the world. There is no such people anymore. Boasting is excluded by the law of faith, because the law of faith says that it is by trusting how righteous He is and how able He is. It is not by you being able. It is by believing that He is able. That is what all of this boils down to.

Romans 5:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience;

That is the thing that bothers a lot of us. *Tribulation works patience*. What is all of that about? We are going to see in the scripture which we are going to read, that Paul says that he rejoiced in difficult times because when he was in difficult times, he just says, "Well, I see my inability. I see how I am not righteous unto eternal life by my own works. But this fact that I have, I see some weakness in my own inability."

I don't think that this was the exact case with Paul but I can just use out of my own life or you can think of something yourself. Maybe you lose your temper. You get upset or something like that and you act in a way where you thought that you're going to act, by your own power, in a good way and you find that it doesn't work out. What do you do? You just rejoice in your weakness. You're saying, 'Well, I know that I am weak but I am trusting in the One that is not weak!" So, in this time, it works patience. It basically, brings you to a place where you continually trust in Him because you are beholding that you cannot do it by your own power.

There is something in your life, every day, that you can look at, where you are going to see that by your own power, you cannot do that. When we see that thing where we cannot do it by our own power, this is how we boast in our weakness: We are boasting saying, "Well, I just want to say that if there's something I can say about myself, it is that I cannot do it by my own works." Paul says that he is rejoicing in his weaknesses. He is saying, "I am boasting. There is something that I can say that I really have. Maybe you as a Jewish nation back then you would refer to say that you are special in your flesh. That you are special because you have the law. You're special because you have all these things. Paul would say, "Listen, man, let me tell you something about the law. If I must boast about the law, I will say this: "I cannot do it! I cannot do the law. Pertaining to the law, I cannot do the law! As pertaining to my own strength, I cannot do it and I boast in that. I am saying that is what I have by my own ability. But, I also believe in the One who is able, who has given me a promise that He will glorify me... not because I am of a special group of people but, because He has the power to save weak people. So I glory in my weakness and I glory and I boast in Him!"

Now I want to talk about this thing about rejoicing.

Romans 5:

- 1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice (kauchaomai is the Greek word for rejoice) in hope of the glory of God.
- **3** And not only so, but we glory (kauchaomai...the words rejoice and glory are the same Greek word and which is then used for the word, boast, as well.) in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- 4. And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
- 5. And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts (John 3:15-16) by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
- 11 And not only so, but we also joy (boast) (kauchaomai) in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

We find 3 things. Look at verse 2: They boast in the glory of God. Paul boasted in his weaknesses. Then he also boasted in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, he boasted saying this: "If I boast, I boast in this: I don't boast in saying that I'm special by my own power. I boast in this: That I have the hope of eternal life by God. And if I want to say something about myself, I'm boasting in this that I can do nothing right by my own power. I cannot attain to that. I am weak by my own power. And as I am weak and I know that I am weak by my own power according to the law, I will just trust in the One that has promised me eternal life. So, I boast in the fact that I have the hope of bodily resurrection. I boast in that. I want to say, "I have the hope of bodily resurrection!"

So, what makes you so special to have that? Nothing! So, then what are you boasting in? Verse 5:11 *I joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ!*"

So how does Paul boast as a Christian? He boasts in saying, "I boast. I have the hope of the resurrection!"

The Jews would have said, "Paul, you say that you have the resurrection, the promise of the resurrection. What makes you so special that you can know that you'll have that? **We** have the promise of the inheritance."

Paul: "Why do you say that you have that?

Jews: "Well, because I'm a Jew and I'm circumcised. Paul, you say that you have the hope of the resurrection. You boast in that! Why do you boast in that? What's special do you have?

Paul: "I boast in the fact that I am nothing and I cannot do it by my own ability. That's what I boast in!"

Jews: "I don't understand. So, where's the foundation from where you can know that you will have this?"

Paul: "I'm boasting in God, that through Jesus, got it right to bring forth a man righteous enough to save a person that doesn't have life by his own works."

That is what he is saying. This is what he is boasts in: He has the hope of the glory of God. He says, "I boast." The Greek word for boast is kauchaomai.

Rejoice= Glory=Joy All three equals Boast. They are all the same Greek word, Kauchaomai. It simply means to make boast, to glory, to joy, or to rejoice. (This can be in a good or a bad sense.),

So, what is Paul saying? He was saying that the Jews boasted in the fact that God was their God. Now, as Christians, we are not boasting in the fact saying, as a special group of people, God is just our God. No, we are saying that God is the God of both Jew and Gentile and that the promise that God made was to both Jew and Gentile.

According to the first 2 verses of **Galatians 3**, Jesus was crucified for the Gentiles as well So, we cannot boast in saying that God is only our God. There is only one God and He is the God of all people. We can not boast in that but what did the Jews boast in? They boasted in the fact that God was now their God. They boasted in the fact that they were of the seed of Abraham but we as Christians cannot boast in the fact that we are of a certain ethnic group. We cannot even boast that we have the law because we cannot even do the law. We cannot even boast that we are saying we know how to do everything right and be a light to the Gentiles by how we apply the law. We can't!

As Christians, what do we boast in? We are boasting in the fact that God made a promise of eternal life to us. We are boasting and saying, "We, as humans, have the hope of the Resurrection. We have believed upon Him to bring it forth." Now, if you believe Him and how righteous He is to bring it forth, what will we then boast in? Well, the only thing that I can boast in is the fact that He made this promise to all of us. Then what foundation do you have by your own ability? I don't only boast in the fact that I have this hope. I boast in the fact that I don't even have the ability to do anything right to it by my own power. I have only weakness by my own power. I've got tribulation. I'm crossed out in the eyes of people." You know, Paul was beaten in jail. I think that in some of his letters, he was writing being cuffed, standing there in the freedom that Christ has made you free, kind of a thing. Paul was writing from weakness saying, "I cannot do it in my own ability. But, if I want to boast, I boast in God through what He accomplished in Jesus."

I want to say that this is how I boast as a Christian. I boast and today I want to boast in front of everybody. I want to say, "I have the hope of eternal life!" What makes you so special that you can have the hope of eternal life? What righteous thing do you have according to Judaism and the law? "NONE! And I boast in that!"

I am boasting that I have the promise of eternal life as a person that has none of my own abilities. I boast in God, who through Christ, to get it right to bless me with that... and that is true about you as well! Glory to God!

Let's end this off and make this practical. So many times, we want to boast that we are the people of God just when everything goes right. Look at what Paul says here in **2 Corinthians 12**. So many times we want to boast when things go well and we have gotten this right and that right, and all those things. But Paul doesn't do that. He realizes that, 'When I am weak and I don't see myself as special by what I accomplish, then I am actually strong because if I 've got the hope of eternal life, why would I have that hope... ONLY by God and not my own power. That is a strong place to be because you are not resting on your own ability.

2 Corinthians 11:30 If I need to glory (boast, It is the same word used in Romans 5), I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

2 Corinthians 12:6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he sees me to be, or that he hears of me. (He says, "I don't want people to think anything more about me than what you've now heard.)

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

This is not someone that God sent. It was someone the Jews sent and they were making havoc of the Church. Paul couldn't boast in what he has accomplished by preaching and how many churches he started. Wherever he would start something, it would close down. If Paul would get on a ship, the thing would sink. If Paul went to a town, they'd rob him. He was not going through good times but he was saying all those things: "Man, look at me. I go and preach but it seems to me as if I don't have the ability to even keep these churches to believe in the truth. Look at me. When I go to a place, they grab me and beat me. It doesn't seem to me as if I really walk in the honor of people as some other preachers do. When they get into a place, they are the bigger apostles and all that. But, me, I'm just a weaker apostle. I'm not even honored by people. When I win people to the Lord and they get saved and their lives get changed and the big shot apostles come later on, they just kicked me out and don't even obey anything I am saying anymore. I would give all of my money to win them to the Lord and then when the other preachers would come, they charged these people money. They would give to them and not even love on me anymore. I don't know. As pertaining to my own works, it seems to me that I'm just nothing." That's the kind of an idea that Paul had about who he was in his own ability.

Then he says, "And lest I should be exalted above measure... this messenger of Satan was given. Paul was saying people saw that the church was going to grow too much and then they sent people to mess up whatever he was doing.

- :8 For this thing I besought the Lord three times, that it might depart from me.
- : 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

He said he very same thing in **Romans 5**. He says, "Well, we are even rejoicing in our inabilities because as we know our inability because all of us have that, It is not as if you must now start to go through difficult times. We all know what our inabilities are. He says, "Listen, you don't want to think about myself and what I can accomplish by my own works. I would rather think of what I cannot get right." That's what he's saying. "So that I could never be at a place where I trust my own power but where I trust the God who has promised me eternal life. So now, I rejoice in the fact that I've got this wonderful promise. I rejoice in the fact that I cannot do it by my own power. I rejoice in the God who got it right, to take a man, Jesus, and save weak people by that man. By standing in that 'm very strong, flooded with the fruit of the Spirit! Glory to God! That is what Paul was saying there.

: 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake...

Listen, sometimes we read this wrong. We think that he takes pleasure in being persecuted for the Gospel. Now that was one thing which was also true but he says, "Whenever I see my own weakness, then I say, "Man, I'm weak by my own power and I cannot do it. Therefore, I only trust in Him!" That's the context! He is saying that whenever he sees a weakness, then he lets that be a reminder to him that he cannot do it by himself. If any form of weakness would manifest in him even if they would rob him, even if something bad would happen, he would say, "Well, I cannot protect myself perfectly but, my trust is that God perfectly protects me!"

It makes me think of a couple that visited our church this morning. They are going to drive up to, I think, the northern part of South Africa. He's 86 years old. He and his wife get in his car and he drives almost a thousand miles, non-stop. Helena said to him, "Be safe!" He said, "Even if we come or if we go, we are safe!" What he was talking about is, "I'm safe in Christ!" True safety is not found in how safe I drive but, in the fact that my life is safe, preserved forever, in Christ!" By that, he acknowledged his weakness. I can make a mistake. You know, I might be in an accident, who knows? But one thing I do know is that I am strong in Him. He has come to preserve my life forever!" That's the kind of boasting that we can have.

I end off with this: How do we boast? We boast in the fact that we have the promise of eternal life made to sinners. Who did God promise eternal life? Who did God promise a child in Abraham's time? He promised, Abram, a person who was worshipping false gods, that He would bring forth an heir from Sarah's womb. He who believes that God can justify the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. So, God came and promised the ungodly godliness... eternal life! We boast that we have the promise of eternal life!

So, by what basis can you say that you have that? Nothing of my own! And I boast that I, in myself, cannot do it! And I also boast in God who made it possible through Jesus Christ. Amen and amen

I want to say to you: Never let your circumstances be a voice about you. Just say, "Well, when we see these things that don't seem to work out, we know that we have a God that made a promise to people who cannot do it by their own power. His righteousness is all that is needed for salvation and not our own. His righteousness makes us right as we simply believe upon Him. Amen

Father, I want to thank You so much that I can stretch forth my hands to everybody who is hearing this and declare to them that you are made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus by God's doing and not your own. Father, I declare to everyone who is watching that they are loved by You! But, when they see their weakness, that they can say, "I should never trust my own ability to be righteous, but I trust You... I boast in You! Amen!

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