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# Difficult Scriptures

I. Scripture: Romans 3:28

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

This verse is used by some to try to prove that the law has been done away, or at least that we don't have to keep the law, since we are justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

III. True Explanation

- A. Remember that although people say you don't have to keep the law, they really don't mean this literally. Do they mean you can kill or steal or murder with impunity? No, of course not. What they do mean is that you can break the Sabbath, not tithe and not keep the Holy Days, etc. Remember this when you explain such verses so, if need be, you can point out this inconsistent and hypocritical stance toward the law.
- B. The verse does not say the "deeds of the law" are not necessary. The subject under discussion is "justification" and whether the "deeds of the law" can "justify" a person. Being justified in the biblical sense means being made just or right before God, which means having your sins forgiven and completely blotted out. The question being settled is not "Should we keep the law?" but, rather, "Does present obedience to the law somehow bring a person into a right standing before God and make up for his past sins?"
- C. If a man commits a crime, his obedience to the law in the future does not make him any less guilty of his past offense. This is also true of us spiritually. Paul showed in verse 20 that the "deeds of the law" do not justify anyone, and he went on to explain in verses 24-27 that justification (forgiveness of sins that are past -- verse 25) can come only by grace, through Christ's sacrifice.
- D. The conclusion is (verse 28) that we are justified by faith without the deeds of the law. "Without" (in the Authorized Version) could be more clearly translated "apart from" or "outside of."