

March 6, 2023

Victory in Jesus

[Romans 4:13-17](#)

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. (Romans 4:13 CSB)

Bleach fumes burned my eyes as I, on hands and knees, pushed my face closer to the bathroom floor to examine the tiles. Scowling, I scraped one of the offending tiles with my thumbnail, scratching off a thin brown film. I sighed. The grime was still there, even after cleaning according to every one of *Heloise's Hints*.

The tile will have to be replaced, if I want a visibly clean floor. But judging from the strength of the fumes, the floor was clean – even if it didn't appear so. Knowing that the floor was free of germs (thank you, chlorine bleach) lightened my heart. I threw my scrub brush back into the bucket. **It was enough.**

The idea of being clean – despite appearances – not only describes my floor, but also describes me pretty well. In the past few months, I have been studying the Old Testament with my daughter as we work our way through our “read the Bible in one year” plan. So far, we have made it to the book of Numbers. Studying the law of Moses has been instrumental to my spiritual growth, but I will admit it has left me feeling as grimy as my bathroom tile.

The law, you see, is having its intended effect. I feel the weight of my sin. The law reveals to us how sinful we are, and how much we need repentance – a particularly appropriate topic during the season of Lent.

But the law cannot save us from God's wrath, for “no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law” (Romans 3:20), which is why the promise of God's grace comes only by faith in his son, Jesus Christ.

Paul points to Abraham as the example of faith, for “Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). Abraham lived before the law, and did not need the law to be deemed righteous to God. And neither do we. Like the bathroom tiles, we may look dirty, but Jesus has washed us clean with his blood and our spirits are deemed righteous because of our faith in his promises.

Are you living under the weight of your sin today? Instead of letting it hold you down, acknowledge it, repent, and trust that God has forgiven you. Then praise the LORD for the gracious gift of his son, our savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, I praise you for your loving kindness, your mercy, your forgiveness, and your righteousness. I am grateful for your son, Jesus Christ whose blood atoned for my sins. I pray that you will make me aware of my sins so that I may repent of them and walk closer to you. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.*

Stacey Holley
Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC, Hurricane, West Virginia