

Romans 3:20 – 28 The Faith of Jesus Chiasm

These literary devices, known as Chiasms in Scripture, reveal much for the discerning reader. Upon close inspection, one will notice additional chiastic patterns (A-B-B-A) in specific corresponding verses. For instance, in verse 20, the apostle states in the first part of the verse, that which he reverses in the last verse (vs. 28). Further, in the “D” segment and the “D¹” corresponding segment, the subject of sin is brought up in the beginning and ending of these verses an (A-B-B-A) pattern again. This is not uncommon to the Bible writers, but part and parcel of the way they all wrote. This is at a deeper level, proof positive that the Holy Spirit moved on “holy men of old” who spoke, “as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” according to the principle found in 2 Peter 1:21.

A – Therefore, by the deeds of the law, no flesh justified in His sight -vs.20

B – Righteousness of God -vs.21

without [our works of] the law is manifested
being what God promised (by the law of faith) through Moses and the prophets

C – Righteousness of God by faith of Jesus Christ -vs.22

-unto unbelievers }
-upon believers } Because there is no difference between Jew & Gentile (see vs.9)

D – All Sinned [in Adam, see Romans 5:12-17] -vs.23

All come short of the glory of God [His Righteousness] in their own experience.

E – Being Justified freely by His grace through redemption in Christ Jesus. -vs.24

E¹ – Whom God has set forth an *atonement* through faith in His blood. -vs.25

D¹ – To declare His Righteousness for the remission of sins that are past. -vs.25

C¹ – To declare His Righteousness that God might be just and the justifier of him

{you and me} out of the faith of Jesus. -vs.26

B¹ – [Righteousness of God] excludes boasting, not by the law of works, but by the law of faith. -vs.27

A¹ – Therefore we conclude, a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. -vs.28

The purpose of a chiasm is to draw the discerning reader's attention to the mountain's pinnacle, the apex truth or focus of the passage, chapter or even book. Paul uses this chiasm also known as envelope construction, here in these verses, so that the discerning reader will recognize and apply the truth of "justification by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus whom God has set forth an atoning victim through faith [the faith of Jesus] in His blood." As this is received by His faith, the Holy Spirit applies the truth of Justification to the child of God. How gracious is God in drawing the hungry soul into this minefield of truth.