**PMC SERMON “LIVE IT OUT” GUIDE** Date: 6 March 2016

Text: Romans 3:27-4:8

Title: Why No One can Boast

Preacher: Rev Chan Siew Chye

Series: Justified by Faith

[**For Group Leaders**:

- The following serves only as a guide. Please feel free to edit and adapt.

- You are strongly encouraged to allow members to share using the POP Journal (4Rs) at the beginning of your group time. This would deepen your fellowship and enrich everyone in the Word.

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| 1. **SERMON RECAP**  *(Visit pmc.org.sg to listen to the sermon and download a copy of the Powerpoint slides)*  **Implications of God’s Salvation Plan**  (Justification by Grace through Faith):    a. It excludes boasting (3:27-30)  • Why boasting? It is related to pride.  • Boasting is not excluded by "works of the law", but only by faith.  • Justification involves a double counting or crediting:  - On the one hand, God credits us with the righteousness of Christ, as a free gift, by faith, apart from our works (see Rom 4:1-4; Gen15:6).  - On the other hand, God refuses to credit our sins against us, but pardons and covers them instead (see Rom 4:5-8; Ps 32:1-2; 2 Cor 5:19, 21).  b. It upholds the law (3:31)  *“Are we now singing a different hymn altogether? Are we abolishing the law? No, of course not! We are setting it to a far better tune, a tune that in fact God himself has written for it. It was never meant to be fulfilled ‘by works’ in the way that the Pharisees and others attempted (see 9.30–10.4). It was always designed to be sung to the tune called ‘faith’.”*  (N. T. Wright)  2. **LIVE IT OUT**   1. While we may not actually boast outwardly and openly about our faith or how "holy" we are, consider how we might sometimes hold a superior attitude towards other brothers and sisters in Christ. Extend this further to people outside of the faith altogether. Do we need to humble ourselves, and to see the need to actually "serve" them? 2. Share in the group    * One thing we are "proud" about our Christian faith.    * One thing we might be "ashamed" of being Christians, e.g. the Crusades, or the City Harvest case.   How do we hold *both* of the above in healthy tension?   1. Our righteousness does not depend on our effort or ability.   Share the following:  - Examples where this fact motivates us to good works.  - Examples where this fact causes us to be complacent.  How can we *avoid* being complacent?  3. **PRAY**  *Please refer to the PMC Mobile App, “MyPMC”, for our weekly prayer guide. [Click on “PRAY”, then “Let’s Pray”]*  4. **GOING DEEPER**  Romans 3:31 – “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”   1. Discuss what this verse means. Specifically, what does Paul mean by "establish the law"? Check out a few Bible translations to help you. |  |

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