

**I Don't Have Any Confidence In My Goodness;  
I Have Complete Confidence In God**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Step - Lesson 6

*Romans 3:19-28 – Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

*Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law  
Romans 6:14 – For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

1. Our recovery from our addictions and other insanities depends on being able to trust God with our lives. (Step 3 – “We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him”.) What happens when you’re not sure if God accepts you because you’re not living right or your faith isn’t strong enough?
2. The book of Romans has a lot to say about how bad it is to be “under law”. “Law” = anything that says, “You have to...” or, “You’d better not...” or, “Here’s the reward for obedience,” or, “Here’s the penalty for not complying.” Laws can be good and useful things. But laws are worse than useless for getting us right with God. What happens when you’re thinking it’s up to you to obey rules so that you get right with God?
3. Whatever comes after the word “but” is more important than whatever came before it. What does the word “but” do in Romans 3:21 [“But now a righteousness from God...”?] Can you see the difference between these two sentences?
  - “I know God loves me and Jesus died for me, but the Bible says I have to be holy.”
  - “The Bible says I have to be holy, but I know God loves me and Jesus died for me.”
4. The message of God’s grace frees you from fear of God rejecting you because you’re not living right or your faith isn’t good enough. How does that help you live your life without having “sin be your master”?