
Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

¹⁹ Without weakening in his **faith**, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Romans 4:20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

²² This is why "it was **credited to him as righteousness**."

²³ The words "it was **credited** to him" were written not for him alone,

²⁴ but also for us, to whom God **will credit righteousness**--for us who **believe** in him who **raised** Jesus our Lord **from the dead**.

²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was **raised to life for** our justification.

“Faith is an act of the soul which looks wholly away from ‘self’ (as regards both merit and demerit) and honors the Almighty and All-gracious in a way not ... in the least meritorious. Thus, faith brings the creature to the Creator in the one right attitude—complete submission and confidence.”

-Charles Moule

Page 3: declared; faith; grace; dead; alive

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God's Surprising Remedy

Romans 4

July 12, 2015

Are justified by works? (4:1-8)

Romans 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?

² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God.

"Justified" -

Romans 4:3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed** God, and it was **credited** to him as **righteousness**."

Genesis 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

"Believed" -

"Credited"-

Romans 4:4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

Romans 4:5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 4:6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Are we justified by religious action? (4:9-12)

Romans 4:9 Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.

¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of **the righteousness that he had by faith** while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the **father** of all who believe but have **not** been circumcised, in order that **righteousness** might be **credited** to **them**.

¹² And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the **footsteps of the faith** that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

We are _____ righteous by God (4:13-16)

Romans 4:13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the **promise** that he would be heir of the world, but through **the righteousness** that **comes by faith**.

¹⁴ For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the **promise** is worthless,

¹⁵ because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

We are declared righteous by _____.

Romans 4:16 Therefore, the **promise comes by faith**, ...

We are declared righteous by _____.

...so that it may be **by grace** and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of **the faith** of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Salvation: the spiritually _____ are made _____! (4:17-25)

Romans 4:17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he **believed--the God who gives life to the dead** and calls things that are not as though they were.
