

Walking Through Romans to Christ

Romans chapter 4 “Righteousness by Faith”

Righteousness by Faith Series

REVIEW: The last three chapters dealt with the problem—Gentiles, Jews, and all people are sinners. **Chapter 4** focuses more on the solution—**FAITH!** Having faith in the “power of God unto Salvation” (Romans 1:16, 17) will truly make all the difference for us! “The Just shall live by Faith!”

1. How does Faith work? (v.1-8)

- a. Faith must be put into the right things, not the wrong things.
- b. Being at peace with God through simple belief in God’s promises (and accepting the conditions of that promise—The Savior’s blood)—this is so essential.
- c. (v.4,5) Working to “earn” peace and true righteousness, by ourselves will fail (**Jeremiah 13:23; Isaiah 64:6**). If you think that you can “work” to “earn” God’s justification then you are entirely wrong! You must accept it as a complete “gift” from Christ by faith. You are just racking up debt for yourself if you are attempting to receive pardon for your sins, or “justification” by the efforts of your own self-righteous works. Your works and your life-record are not holy enough to actually earn salvation. The Law requires **perfect** righteousness and your life record or works have not been perfect before God. Your or my “righteousness” is **NOT** sufficient. All our righteousness is like filthy rags. We need to have the perfect righteousness of Christ to cover our sins and redeem us. This must be received by Faith in Him. “The LORD our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6) is what we need.
- d. (v.5-8) Why is God so generous with you or me? Why has He not imputed sin to our name? Shouldn’t sin be imputed to us who are ungodly? Shouldn’t we receive the full punishment for our sinfulness? Who received this punishment? (**Isaiah 53:4-6**)

2. Who is Faith Open To? (v.9-12)

- a. Note: Faith must come first, actions seal the commitment. Faith brings righteous actions which follow. If you believe a hurricane is coming to town, then I better see you boarding up your house. True faith or belief will produce righteous works. Abraham had the faith first and was counted right with God. The actions of faith followed that. He did not earn his peace or “acceptance” with God. It was given to him by God’s grace through faith.
- b. Abraham’s experience (Abram)
 - i. **Genesis 15:3-7**—God made a humanly impossible promise to a Gentile, an uncircumcised man—a man from “Ur of the Chaldees.” (The Chaldeans were people from the Ancient land of Babylon). Abraham was promised a son in his old age.
 - ii. **13 years later**—(after Abraham tried his own way and failed w/Ishmael—ch.16)—God gave the Covenant of circumcision (**Gen. 17:10, 11**). One year later, after this covenant of circumcision was given, Abram got a son (v.16,17,21).

- c. Abraham's Faith was Salvation.—Circumcision was an action or work made from His saving faith and became an **important symbol**. (cutting away of the flesh)
 - d. Both **Old and New** Testaments tell it's not the OUTWARD ORDINANCE that saved, but rather, it's the inward conversion. "**circumcision of heart**" (**Deuteronomy 10:16**; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4). The outward was to be a sign of the inward!
 - e. Closest Modern Symbol—**Baptism** (Death to the old life, rising to a new life). The **mere outward ceremony will do nothing**—FAITH is the Saving Element. (Belief, then Baptism)
 - i. "Believes and is baptized" (**Mark 16:16**); The Ethiopian Eunuch—"if thou believest" (**Acts 8:37**); Phillipian Jailor—"Believe on the Lord..." (**Acts 16:31**); **John Baptist** "wrath to come...bring forth fruits showing repentance" (Matt. 3:7)
 - ii. **Thief on Cross**—"Lord, remember me...thou shalt.." (Luke 23:43)
 - iii. **Faith does Not Negate Baptism, but it is to precede it** (In the Sanctuary system too, the Altar of the Lamb's sacrifice came before the Laver for washing as you approached the Temple where God's presence was)
 - iv. Salvation comes first from Belief (**Romans 10:9**) "Believe and confess"
 - v. "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38)
 - f. vs.9-12 point out to us, that both Jews and Gentiles are **saved by Faith**. It's never been any different than that (contrary to the opinion of some these days).
3. **Has anyone ever been saved by the Law? (v.13-15, 16-21)**
- a. Salvation has always been by the BLOOD of the SPOTLESS LAMB.
 - b. (v.13-15) "**The Law works wrath**". Why does the Law "bring about wrath" (v.15)? This is because all have sinned against God by breaking His holy law. "...**where there is no law there is no transgression [sin]**." If God had no law, then no sin could be held against us. It's like a government with no laws. If you have no stop sign or law about stopping at a red light, then obviously, you cannot get into trouble for running through an intersection. But, since there is a law, if you have broken this law, then you should be punished! "Wrath" must come to you.
 - c. (v.16-18) "**Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace...**" We must be saved by "faith" in the work of Jesus Christ for us. We must receive His "grace," pardon or forgiveness! It is only through Christ Jesus that we can be saved and through His grace. It is not, nor can be, by our own efforts to keep God's law or "earn" salvation. We cannot earn salvation. It is a free gift (Ephesians 2:8,9)! People of "many nations" belong to the same family of faith and promise as Abraham (v.16,17; Galatians 3:29).
 - d. (v.19-21) Humanly these matters were not possible. But, by faith in God's power, all the promises were literally and divinely fulfilled.
4. **The Promise of faith comes to us (v.22-25)** *Jesus bore the "wrath" or condemnation of the law for our sins by dying upon the cross for us. The merit of His offering can be received by us if we will accept Him through and trust His promises. "He was made to be sin for us...who knew no sin..." (2 Corinthians 5:21). "The Lord hath laid on him..." (Isaiah 53:6).*

Today's Appeal: *This righteousness and justification is given to those who "believe on him..." (v.24). Can we put our trust in what God can do for us, and not in our own selves? **Is this your desire?** _____*