

The Apostle of Being Made Righteous in Christ (1:1–17)
The Need for Being Made Righteous in Christ (1:18–3:20)
*The **Means** of Being Made Righteous in Christ (**3:21–4:25**)*
The Benefits of Being Made Righteous in Christ (5:1–8:39)

Romans 4: According to God's dealings with Abraham, **WHY** has God's appointed means of salvation always been **justification through faith alone**, apart from works?

- **(4:1–3)** Because of what is **excluded** by justification through faith alone
"For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God."
(Compare 3:20–22a, 27–31)
 This is good news! Boasting in human effort leads to the pendulum of arrogance and insecurity.
- **(4:4–8)** Because of what is **imputed** by justification through faith alone
"And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness ... | ... blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." (Compare 3:23–26)
 Reformed teaching: imputed righteousness | Roman Catholic teaching: infused righteousness
- **(4:9–12)** Because of who is **included** by justification through faith alone
"The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised."
 Genesis 17 (the initiation of the covenant of circumcision) shows God's intent all along to build a multinational church that will inherit the covenant promises first issued to father Abraham.
- **(4:13–25)** Because of what is **insured** by justification through faith alone

○ **(4:13–16)** The guarantee

"For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith." Romans 8:17 shows that believers' inheritance comes through their being united to Christ. Every blessing comes in and through him.

○ **(4:17–22)** The Guarantor

"... in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist."

○ **(4:23–25)** The security of guarantee

"It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up ("given up"; 1:24, 26, 28) for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

Verse 25: What's the basis for and assurance of your justification through faith alone? God raised from the dead Jesus Christ our Lord, which demonstrates God's full acceptance of Christ's atoning sacrifice for your sin.

What is the character of justifying faith ... for Abraham and for us?

- Its **nature**: personal, confident trust/hope in God's word of promise; justification **THROUGH FAITH ALONE**
- Its **object**: the God who raises the dead to life; justification **BY GRACE ALONE**
- Its **content**: Hope in God's resurrecting power to fulfill his covenant promise despite our own deadness (*now that the gospel has been fully revealed: hope in God's having raised from the dead Jesus Christ our Lord for our justification*); justification **IN CHRIST ALONE**
- Its **result**: as the believer sets her hope in God, she is strengthened in her assurance of God's fulfillment of promise, which glorifies God; justification **TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE**

Consider the wisdom of God in justifying believers by faith alone, the instrument of salvation manifest in the Old Testament and coming to fulfillment in Christ's person and work | *Romans 11:33–36* *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*