

## ROMANS: PART 17 EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

Abraham: Justified Through Faith -- Not By Works  
Romans 4:1-8

### **The Context.**

1. Gospel of Justification Defined. Rom 3:21-26.
2. Gospel of Justification Defended. Rom 3:27-31.
3. Gospel of Justification Demonstrated. Rom 4:1ff.

### **The Significance Of Abraham & David.**

These two Great Men -- and sinful men:

	OUR RESPONSIBILITY	SOURCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	GOD'S PART
NOT	Saved through works	A "wages" righteousness. It is Earned	God is under obligation to save
BUT	Saved through faith	A "reckoned" righteousness. It is Conferred	God freely gives salvation as a gift

### **Abraham -- An Example of Positive Reckoning. Rom 4:1-5. Cf. Gen 15:6.**

1. Abe. was not saved by works. Vs 2.
  - If he had been justified through works he has a basis for boasting (pride).
  - But no one will have a basis for boasting before God.
2. Abe. was justified through faith. Vs 3-5.
  - God reckoned, credited (*λογιζομαι*) Abe. w/ righteousness. Cf. Philm 1:18. 5X in Rom 4:3-8.
  - God doesn't save those who work (wages) -- that would mean justification is a *debt*.
  - God justifies as a gift -- the wicked<sup>1</sup>, who do not work<sup>1</sup>, but believe in Christ<sup>2</sup>.

### **David -- An Example of Negative Reckoning. Rom 4:5,6. Cf. Ps 32:1-2.**

1. David did not seek to be justified by works -- Look at his understanding of his sin! Vs 7-8.
  - What he saw was his own demerit.
  - Lawless deeds, sins, sin.*
2. David was justified by the reckoning act of God (justification).
  - Lawless deeds *forgiven* (sent away). Cf. Mt 13:36; Ps 103:12; Heb 9:28a.
  - Sins *covered*. Cf. Day of Atonement.
  - Sin *not taken into account* (never imputed). Cf. Jer 31:34b, a clean slate.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Justification through imputation should make us stand in awe of grace!
2. Justification through imputation should reduce our pride!
3. Justification through imputation should encourage us to believe!

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