

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 wicked¹, who do not work¹, but believe in Christ².

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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