

Romans 4:3-8

Righteousness Without Works

1. 4:3-4 - Abraham's Righteousness Without Works

- a. *"Abraham believed God..."* - In Gen 15:6, without works to be done, and...
- b. *"it was counted to him for righteousness"* - righteousness w/o works: belief stood alone
 - i. This idea boggles the mind of religious and irreligious man.
 - ii. Justification ~def. Declaring one righteous.
 - iii. Religious: you are righteous if you do -- Irreligious: We don't/won't do.
 - iv. Paul: righteousness was counted to him by God without his works

2. 4:4 - Grace for Faith Only

- a. Fact: Workmen get rewarded what they are due (debt owed to them)
- b. Fact: Grace is giving what is not due, that which has not been worked for.
- c. Fact: Workmen do not receive grace for getting what they are due.
- d. The reward (what is given in return) = justification / righteousness / blessing / salvation
- e. Justification due those who do right works (i.e. religion)
 - i. Problem 1: none are righteous - Rom 2-3:10
 - ii. Problem 2: salvation is not by grace (reward not of grace) - Rom 3:24, Eph 2:8-9

3. 4:5 - Belief Not Works

- a. *"But to him that worketh not"* - the workman does not get grace, this man does.
 - i. *"worketh not"* - Not referring to sin, but referring to having nothing to do.
- b. *"but believeth"* - which excludes belief from the category of 'works' and 'deeds'
- c. *"on him that justifieth the ungodly"* - Belief must have the right object.
 - i. *On who?* God. - Faith is not the 'good work' the object is the 'one good'
 - ii. *That what?* Saves sinners. - Sin is justified, the sinner is justified by faith.
 - iii. *How?* Rom 3:21-26 - Abraham did not know how - but now we know.
 - iv. *'ungodly'* = God saves sinners and only sinners by grace, without justifying sin.
 - v. Heart of 1000 hymns 'Amazing Grace' 'By Calvary' 'Wonderful Grace of Jesus'
- d. *"his faith"* justifies freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

4. 4:6-8 - David's Blessing Without Works

- a. *"David also"* - Paul is making the same point about *"blessedness ... without works"*
- b. Impute ~def. Charge, account to. Defined in context: 'reckoned' (v4) or 'counted' (v3,5)
- c. David was the greatest king of Israel - his works are inspired - 1 Sam 17, 18:7
- d. Davidic timeline: Anointed 1 Sam 16:14, armorbearer 16:18-21, Goliath 17, king's court and fame 1 Sam 18:5-8, wise behavior 18:14, royal son in law 18:18,21, 'more righteous' 24:17, king 2 Sam 2:4, victory - 2 Sam 2-7:1, Temple/Messiah 2Sa 7:12-13
 - i. Sure and certain mercy - 2 Sam 7:14-16, Isa 55:3
 - ii. David sins deserving of death - 2 Sam 11:2-5 - Adultery and murder Lev 20:10
- e. David was forgiven by God due to his mercy promise - Psalm 32:1-5, 51:16

- f. Paul uses David as an example of blessing toward a sinner w/o works
- g. Paul uses this mercy promised to Israel - Isa 55:3 as pointing to Jesus - Acts 13:34
- h. God is not imputing sins today toward sinners due to Christ - 2 Cor 5:19, 21
- i. They both needed the cross that Paul preaches – 2 Tim 2:8
- j. Both Abraham (father) and David (king) justified by grace through faith without works