

Romans 4 - How Are We Made Righteous?

Rom 1-3 all are guilty...so What is the basis of Righteousness? If you died, why would God let you in heaven? Every reason for upholding Abraham - Paul shows there is a larger audience

It is not by Good Works (I NEVER HURT ANYONE, I TRY TO DO GOOD, a good neighbor/worker/citizen)

- **SLIDE 2** Rom 4:1-25 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**" 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are **not counted as a gift but as his due.**
 - WHY NOT GOOD WORKS 1) We'd boast 2) It would not be a gift God would be indebted to us
 - He believed God and it was **counted** as righteousness - **something counted credited is a gift**

COUNT - used 11 times in this chapter - it is an accounting term...to credit an account...you are in debt and unable to pay, an investor credits your account \$1M...no goods or services were exchanged

Its kind of opposite - God who actually justifies the UNGODLY (alluding to his gospel to Gentiles)

- **SLIDE 3** 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him **who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness**, 6 just as David also speaks of the **blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness** apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom **the Lord will not count his sin.**"
 - He justifies the UNGODLY → faith is COUNTED as righteousness
 - This COUNTING - Blessing - (lawless deeds forgiven, sins covered, Lord will not count his sin)
 - He does NOT COUNT sin, but COUNTS righteousness

This blessing is not by Circumcision - (I GO TO CHURCH, my uncle is a preacher- I was baptized at 13)

- **SLIDE 4** 9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was **counted** to Abraham as righteousness. 10 How then was it **counted** to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? **It was not after, but before he was circumcised.** 11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

The purpose is so he is the father of all who believe (alluding to his gospel to the Gentiles)

- **SLIDE 5** 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, 12 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.

It does not come through the law - I keep the 10 COMMANDMENTS

- **SLIDE 6** 13 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. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

- If the law brings righteousness the promise is void WHY? NO ONE CAN KEEP THE LAW

but it is by grace through faith → no one can keep the law but everyone who believes receives grace

- **SLIDE 7** 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be **guaranteed to all his offspring**--not only to the adherent of the law but also to **the one who shares the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all,
 - It depends on faith so the promise would rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring (ie He is the father of all who believe - that includes you)

How do we share in the faith of Abraham v16 or walk in the footsteps of that faith v12?

SLIDE 8 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"--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. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." **SLIDE 9** 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered **his own body, which was as good as dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the **barrenness of Sarah's womb**.

A. Abraham believed God gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist

- **God promised him something** (father of many nations) **that would require**
 - Abraham's body good as dead → to come to life
 - Sarah's barren womb → to be filled with life
 - Nations that did not exist, to come into existence -- (the Jews, 12 tribal nations, 6 from Keturah)

B. Abraham was fully convinced that God is trustworthy and capable to bring about all He promised

- **SLIDE 10** 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, **21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised**. 22 That is why his faith was "**counted** to him as righteousness."

Righteousness is counted to us when we have similar belief

SLIDE 11 23 But the words "it was **counted** to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be **counted** to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

- **Do you believe God gives life to the dead?**
 - Abraham's body, Sarah's womb, Isaac in a form resurrected, Jesus raised from the dead,
- **Do you believe God can perform what he promised**
 - Jesus delivered up for our trespasses, Jesus raised for our justification (not my works, not my religious heritage, not the 10 commandments)
- **Do you believe God can bring into existence that which does not exist**
 - A people who were not his people (Gentiles) dead in sin, without hope without God and now to be made his children, part of his family, receiving the blessing of forgiveness of sin

This is why resurrection is at the heart of our profession of faith

- **SLIDE 12** Rom 10:9-13 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (11) For the Scripture says, "**Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.**" (12) For there is **no distinction** between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, **bestowing his riches on all who call on him**. (13) For "**everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**"

If you died and God asked, why should I let you into heaven...your answer should be something like this

- **God's made a promise** - Jesus was delivered up for MY sin, and raised up for my justification
- **God gives life to the dead** - Jesus was raised from the dead (like Abraham Sarah, Isaac, us)
- **He calls into existence what never existed** - I am a NEW CREATION -- once dead in sin, now alive
- **My confidence is NOT place in what I have done or could do ...**
- If this is my belief, God COUNTS me as righteous, and by his gift of grace He will remember my sin no more