

Romans 4:6~8

We have been looking at what “*the bible says*” about a man’s “*Justification*” before God... Without question, the “*Most Important*” subject in the bible, & at the same time, one of the most miss-understood!

Man’s question has always been... **How is a man made right with God?**

The answer you’ll receive to that question, depends largely in part with who you ask! There’s a lot of different opinions out there...

Does that mean, there’s different ways? Absolutely Not! Over and over Paul has made it clear there is only one way, and in 3:29~30, he makes it crystal clear...

²⁹*Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: ³⁰Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.*

There’s only ONE WAY... And I want to make it clear, that I’m not promoting some particular denomination... I have not trying to convince you of what I believe, or what the “*Baptist Church*” believes, or what the “*Christian Church*” believes, or what the “*Church of God*”, the “*Methodist Church*,” the “*Pentecostal Church*...”

But rather, I have sought to carefully explain unto you... “*What the Scripture says*...” God knows, I’m not trying to argue, that “*I’m right*...” A man would be a fool to do so, for if he were to “*win the argument*,” yet be wrong in his understanding... he would DIE in his sins!

Tragically...the church world, can be often described in like the political parties in Washington... Regardless of the issue, they argue “*Party*”... Likewise, many denominations will argue for what “*they believe*,” over diligently seeking the truth! Satan has managed to bring chaos and confusion to the church world today, in this manner...

The “*Only Answer*” that matters, is the one revealed in the word of God... “*thus saith the Lord!*”

We have been looking to what the bible “*CLEARLY teaches*” on the matter...

(3:28) Out of Paul’s careful study of the scripture, Paul came to “*the conclusion*” ...

Man’s justification comes by faith in Christ sacrificial death on the cross... not by man’s adherence to the law...

²⁸*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith... without the deeds of the law.*

Paul declares, “*The sacrificial Death of Christ on the Cross*” as the only “*Atonement for Sin*...” That the “*deeds*” of a man have nothing to do with his justification, for that comes only by the man placing his faith in the death of Christ...

It cannot be any clearer than that!

It is impossible to study this passage, and come away with any other “*conclusion!*”

Yet... there are some churches that have gathered this morning, that are teaching a “*works based*” salvation! Even though the bible is so clear on the matter...

These people are “*marked*” in that they “*believe*” that one wrong thought or act, renders them “*lost*” again! They base their “*justification*” before God on the basis of their deeds... a “*Works Based*” salvation!

Illustration: 78-year-old woman at hospital... My heart is broken for these folks...

Here in chapter 4, Paul points to two of Israel's most honored and revered men... **Father Abraham & King David**...as "**Examples**" of the truth he is proclaiming.

It's one thing to "**Claim something to be true...**" but quiet another to "Prove it to be true!"

Paul "**Proves his claims**" by pointing to two irrefutable pieces of evidence...
The scripture...and...the two "**Pillars**" of the Jewish faith!

(Vs 3a) He first points to Abraham...³**For what saith the scripture?**

Q: According to the scripture...How did Abraham "**acquire**" Justification?

(Vs 3b) Paul's answer...*According to the scripture*...

...*Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

...*counted...* is a banking term that means "*to put to one's account.*"

This same word is used eleven times in this chapter, translated "**reckoned**" "**imputed**" "**counted.**"

God put "**Righteousness**" into Abraham's "**account**" because of his Faith...

★ **Clearly**...Abraham was Justified before God by FAITH...and **so was David**...

(Vs 6~8) ⁶*Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man...*

...unto whom God **imputes** righteousness without works...

T: Paul says, that King David taught the same thing, that...

God "**Puts Righteousness into men's account**" not on the basis of what they do... But rather as a "**Gift!**"

(Vs 4~5) **Both of these men's lives reflect the principle Paul taught in 4~5**...

⁴*Now to him that works is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. ⁵But to him that works not, but believeth on him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

If a person is rewarded for his labor, then he receives it, not as a gift, but rather because he has earned it!

But if you receive a reward, even though you didn't do anything worthy of it...than it becomes a gift!

When a man works, he **earns** a salary ...and the money is put to his account...

But if a man "**Receives a salary**...having not worked for it, it then is a gift...

T: Paul says, that King David taught the same thing, that...

That a man **is not** Justified by "**his good deeds**," because he "**earned it**"... but by the Grace of God!

Once again, Paul looks to the scripture... I am so grateful, that Paul was not one who would simply say... "**Here's what I BELIEVE**..." But rather, he was a man who look to what the scriptures had to say!

He quotes Psalms 32:1~2...⁷ *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.* ⁸ *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*

Psalms 32 is a song written by King David... Ask any songwriter, and they will tell you, in order to write a song, you must first be inspired!

Illustrations: Hymns (Book of Terry E.)

David too was inspired to write this song, it was written out of a personal experience... This morning, I'd like to share that story with you...the inspiration of Psalm 32.

2Samuel 11~12...

(11:1~4) King David committed adultery with Bath-Sheba...

(11:5) Bath-Sheba conceived a child...

(11:6~11) He tries to COVER his Sin... He calls for Uriah and tried to get him to stay in his house, and to lye with his wife, so he'd think it was his...

(11:11) But Uriah wouldn't! A man of great integrity...

(11:12~13) King David tried again, by getting Uriah drunk, and trying to get him to lye with his wife... But once again, it didn't work...

(11:14~15) King David sends a letter (by the hand of Uriah) to Joab, his military leader, commanding him to put Uriah on the front lines, that he would be killed...

(11:16~17) Uriah was killed...

(11:18~22) Military leader sent a message to King David, giving a progress report on the battle...

- a) He tells the messenger, when you give King David the report, and he gets "upset" at hearing about the death of Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth...
- b) When King David "*gets mad*" and starts yelling, saying that, that happened because we made a stupid move, by getting too close to the wall... you tell him that Uriah was also killed...

(11:21) The messenger did just that...and King David responded... COLD HEARTEDLY...

Well, you win some, you lose some...

Chapter 12... Being extremely "Displeased" with King David, the Lord sent a man unto him, Nathan...

(12:1~4) The Parable...

(12:5~6) King David's Reaction...

(12:7~8) You the man...

(12:9~12) The Punishment handed down...

(12:13) King David's repentance...

(12:14~19) God takes the life of the child...

You might say... King David... "Royally"...messed up!

★ Knowing all that... King David's not a very good example, is he?

Or is he...

When you think about, **King David might well be a "better example" than Abraham!**

True, King David certainly is not the best choice as an example of "Integrity" and "Faithfulness..."

But he is a "good example" of GOD'S GRACE!

That Justification **comes not** on the basis of man's merit!"

King David certainly didn't "*Deserve*" or "*Earn*" Justification before God...did he?

The "**Darker** *a man's sin*" the more "**Glorious** *God's Grace!*"

The life of King David, was another prime example that Justification comes by faith, and faith alone! King David was "guilty and unworthy" of God's blessing! If King David had gotten what he "earned," God would have cast him aside!

But King David confessed his sin, pouring out his heart to God... and King David got just what was coming to him... *Tender Mercy!*

The inspiration to Psalms 32...

¹ *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.* ² *Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

David cries out... "*What a wonderful God we have...a God who pardon's our iniquity!*"

Someone might hear this story, and think... That's just not fair! David deserved to die for what he did...

And your right, he did! And if you go back and study this passage, you'll find that this really cost David a lot... His house was a mess, his neighbors would steal his wives before all the people, and God took his son... I can't imagine a greater loss... I'm sure that David would have rather it been him...

It's interesting, that the punishment of King David's sin, was the "*Death of his only begotten son...*"

By no means did he get away with his sin! God saw to that...

But one thing David did get... Grace and forgiveness for his sin...

God's salvation has always come by The Cross... (3:20) God's grace, mercy is now "manifested!"