

Romans: Justification

(Romans 3:21-4:25)

Introduction:

1. Last week we looked at the problem of Sin:
 1. Paul addresses both the Gentiles and the Jews
 2. His conclusion is that both sides have sinned, and both sides are in the same sinking boat..
2. This week we will look at the solution to this problem of sin: Justification through faith in Jesus.
 1. Righteousness - to be in good standing
 2. Justification — to be made righteous
 3. Faith — Often used as an umbrella term
 4. Grace — A Gift that is freely given but not necessarily freely received.

I. Righteousness Revealed

- A. (Romans 3:21-31)
- B. Righteousness revealed
 1. Apart from the Law?
- C. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile.
- D. How was justification achieved?
 1. Justification is given in grace, achieved through the sacrifice of Christ.
 2. Jesus is *ἰλασ터리ον* — John 2:2; Hebrews 9:5)
 - a) He is both a Propitiation and Expiation
 - (1) Expiation — An act that amends wrongs and appeases God's wrath
 - (2) Propitiation — An act that brings God's favor
 3. Jesus alone is Just and Justifier
 - a) (Hebrews 4:15-16)
- E. Paul's main point:
 1. We aren't saved through adherence of the law. We are saved through Christ.
 2. So do we through the Old Law-away? Of course not!
 3. Establish/uphold — This **Validates** what the law has always taught.

II. Consider Abraham

- A. (Romans 4:1-12)
- B. Paul's major point here: Abraham is the father of both the Jews and Gentiles.
- C. Abraham has discovered, gained, found:
 1. Justification is not a result of works, but of faith.
 - a) (Ephesians 2:8-10)
 - b) The Jews claimed that Abraham had merited his righteousness, if this were the case, surely he could boast.
- D. The one who does not work?
 1. One who does not work meritocratic works, not obedient works.
- E. The Question here is WHEN was Abraham counted as righteous?
 1. (Gen 15:6) — Credited to Abraham as righteousness

2. (Gen 17) — Abraham is circumcised.
3. Abraham is both the archetype of faith for the uncircumcised gentiles and the circumcised Jews.

III. The Promise Realized

- A. (Romans 4:13-25)
- B. Without Law there is no transgression.
 1. Not the same as no sin. Different words.
- C. The promise to Abraham is fulfilled in both the Jews and the Gentiles, who are heirs according to faith and not according to the flesh.
 1. (Galatians 3:24-4:7)
 2. Abraham is the father of many nations — εθνος is often translated as gentiles.
- D. Abraham's example of faith:
 1. He trusted that God would fulfill his promises despite his physical age

Conclusion:

1. Paul's argument so far:
 1. Both Gentiles and Jews are guilty of sin and, therefore subject to God's wrath.
 2. However, in the same way that Abraham was saved by Faith, both Jews and Gentiles may be saved.
 3. This Justification by Faith is only available through the Blood that Jesus shed.