

ROMANS From Wretchedness to Righteousness

Study 6

Romans 3:27-4:25

Why Faith Works

Justification by faith destroys pride (Romans 3:27-31)

Verse 27-31

Rom 3:27-31




Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

1) a) Comprehension question. Paul anticipates objections from the religious Jews and gives an answer to these objections/questions. Answer the following questions.

Objections	Paul's Answer	Question	Your Answer
Where, then, is boasting?	It is excluded.	What were the three things the Jews were boasting about according to the video lecture?	
Because of what law? The law that requires work?	No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.	What were the three things Pharisees are proud of doing according to the video lecture?	
		According to Luke 18:11-14, who was justified? The Pharisee or the sinful tax collector?	
Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he	Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the	Paraphrase in your own words Paul's point.	

not the God of Gentiles too?	circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.		
Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith?	Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.	What were the three reasons the laws are still relevant according to the video lecture?	

b) Fill in the blanks. According to the video lecture, fill in the results of these two different approach to God:

By Works of the Law	By Faith
	
	

The Patriarchs were justified by faith not works (Romans 4:1-25)

Verse 1-5

Rom 4:1-5
 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

2)Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. The word ‘credited’(NIV) or ‘counted’(ESV) is translated from the Greek word *ELOGISTHE*. According to verses 1-5, did God owe Abraham his ‘righteousness’?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Verse 6-8

Rom 4:6-8

David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

3) a) Fill in blanks. According to the video lecture fill out the meanings for 3 different types of sin:

3 words for 'sin'	<i>Hatta</i>	<i>Awon</i>	<i>Pesa</i>
English	Transgression	Sin	Iniquity
Definition/ meaning			

b) Objective question, choose the answer(s), can be more than one. Based on verses 6-8 and video lecture, who are the types of people that are 'blessed'?

- A. Those who do good works deserving righteousness
- B. Those whose transgressions are forgiven
- C. Those whose sins are covered
- D. Those whose sin the Lord will never count against them
- E. King David

Verse 9-12

Rom 4:9-12

Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

4) a) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. Based on verses 9-11, did the 'blessings' from God come to Abraham before or after circumcision?

- A. After circumcision
- B. Before circumcision

b) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. Based on verses 12, Abraham is the 'father' of:

- A. only those that are circumcised
- B. those who follow Abraham's example of faith even if they are not circumcised (Gentiles)

The covenant blessings can only be realized through faith not works (Romans 4:13-17)

Verse 13-15

Rom 4:13-15

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

5) a) Objective question, choose the answer(s), can be more than one. Based on verses 13-15 and the video lecture, which of the following is true:

- A. Only those who are biologically related to Abraham can get God's promise to be 'heir of the world'.
- B. Those who have faith in God can be 'heir of the world' .
- C. Those who depend on law and not faith to be heirs will not inherit the promise.
- D. The law brings wrath because it only diagnoses the problem, it doesn't cure the problem.
- E. No law, no transgression, no blessings through forgiveness.
- F. The law is worthless.

Verse 16-17

Rom 4:16-17

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

6) a) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. The verse "I have made you a father of many nations." is quoted from:

- A. Hebrews 2:16
- B. Deuteronomy 1:8
- C. Genesis 25:1-4
- D. Genesis 17:4-6

b) Comprehension question. Rewrite in your own words to help you make sense of the following.

NIV	ESV	Your words
He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.	—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.	

Abraham’s faith becomes a template for ours in justification (Romans 18-25)

Verse 18-19

Rom 4:18-19
 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.

7) a) Objective question, choose the most appropriate answer. Based on verses 18-19 and the video lecture, which of the following is the point of this passage?

- A. We should all father as many offspring as possible.
- B. If you are 100 years old, you are as good as dead.
- C. God can make the impossible possible.

b) Fill in blanks. According to the video lecture fill out the following:

Type	Our Reality	God’s Promises
Life vs death		
State of sinfulness		
God vs suffering		
Earth status		

Verse 20-21

Rom 4:20-21

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

8) a) Reflection question. Abraham was ‘strengthened in his faith’ (NIV) or ‘grew strong’ (ESV) and even prayed for other people to have children despite having no children themselves at the point of the prayer (Genesis 20:17). Are you able to pray for illness or financial difficulties of others if you yourself are going through it and have not found relief?

Quick Verse Reference

Genesis 20:17

"Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again,"

a) Reflection question. According to Hebrews 11:18-19, why was Abraham willing to sacrifice his son Issac in Genesis 22?

Quick Verse Reference

Hebrews 11:18-19

even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Verse 22-25

Rom 4:22-25

This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

9) a) Discussion question. Is faith enough to get Jesus to justify our sins?

Background information

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and His righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.

b) Fill in blanks. According to the video lecture fill out the following differences between the Roman Catholic faith and Protestant faith:

Roman Catholics need:	Protestants need:

Case Studies

Case 1

A practitioner of the Evangelism explosion came to Mabel's church and asked a random sample of church goer's this question " If you were to die today and come before God in his throne room. He would ask you the question: " 'Why should I let you into heaven?' What would your response be?"

The most common responses in Mabel's church were:

- A) "because I have tried my best to be a good Christian"
- B) "because I believe in him and try to do his will,
- C) "because I believe in him with all my heart."

10) a) Discussion question. Discuss which of the above answers convey the meaning of "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"

b) Discussion question. Which would be the right answers that convey the meaning of "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?