

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?	-Election -Special relationship with God (Rom 2:17-18) -Circumcision (Phil 3:5-6)
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?	-Morality -Religious observances -Good works- tithes (Luke 18:11-12) "I am not like other men"
		According to Luke 18:11-14, who was justified? The Pharisee or the sinful tax collector?	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.	Of course the God is God of whole universe la! Takkan each race got

not the God of Gentiles too?	circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.		their of God. There is one God and his rule for everyone to have access to him through faith is the same.
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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law gives us knowledge of sin and that we need Jesus - Jesus lived the righteous life(law) on our behalf - Jesus paid the penalty of sin set by the law Summary: Jesus fulfilled the law for us

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
↓	↓
Boasting	Receive Grace as divine gift (no merit)
↓	
Human Merit (pride)	

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	-miss the mark -come up short	-perversion -disrespect for God	-rebellion

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 verse 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 the law and not faith to be heirs will not inherit the promise.

D. The law brings wrath because it only diagnose 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.	God can give life to something that has no life, and better, can command something into existence. Carson commentary: Paul probably intends four related ideas: (1) “Calls into being things that were not” alludes to God’s creating all things from nothing (ex nihilo; cf. Isa 41:4; 48:13). (2) Jews used the phrase “gives life to the dead” to refer to conversion from paganism (especially in the OT pseudepigrapha, Joseph and Asenath). (3) God gave “life” to the “dead” body of Abraham and the “dead” womb of Sarah in the

		miraculous birth of Isaac (v. 19). (4) God also gave “life” to the dead body of Jesus by raising him from the dead (v. 24) Romans 4:17
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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	Mortality	Immortality
State of sinfulness	Sinful corruption	Righteous
God vs suffering	suffering/judgement	Love us
Earth status	Earth falling apart	New heaven and earth

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 Isaac in Genesis 22?

He believed God can control life and death.

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?

Yes, sola fide.

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:
Faith	Faith
Baptism	
Penance	

Case Studies

Case 1

A practitioner of the Evangelism explosion came to Mabel's church and asked a random sample of church goers 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"

(Romans 4:3 ESV)

This is not a trick question — it reveals common misconceptions about what it means to believe. Answer type (A) is a "salvation by works" answer which is obvious because the person is expecting credit for trying to obey the law and live like a Christian and that should be worth something. Answer type (B) is a "salvation by faith plus works" answer.

Abraham wasn't saved by just believing in God. Verse 3 says that Abraham believed God. It isn't a general belief in God that saves, but it is believing God when he promises a way of salvation by grace. It is believing God will save you. Saving faith is not faith in God in general. You can have lots and lots of strong faith that God exists, that he is loving, that he is holy. You can believe that the Bible is God's holy word. You can show great reverence for God. Yet all the while you can be seeking to be your own saviour and justifier by trusting in performance in religion, performance in moral character, performance as a parent, performance in vocation, etc.

To say saving faith is a "trust transfer" is to consciously see where your trust is, and remove one's hopes and trust from those things and to place them on God as saviour in particular (not only on him as God in general)

(C) is a "salvation by faith AS a work" answer.

It is the strength of his belief in God ...described as with all my heart that is important . Hence now faith becomes a work, it confers merit I am saved because I have a high degree of intensity of my faith in God.

In each case, the religious person has not "stopped working" and has not done a real trust transfer. In the last case, the person has even come to trust in his or her trust. But each alternative misses the glorious release of the gospel. These false understandings of saving faith will lead to insecurity, anxiety, a lack of assurance, possible spiritual pride, touchiness to criticism, and a devastation in light of any moral lapses!

So this definition of faith cuts against both the religious person and the irreligious person. On the outside one seems to have faith and the other does not. But the religious person may be just as lost, having never confronted his or her own trust in self-justification.

Abraham believed God....he believed that all God had promised to him will come to pass. We need in the same way to believe God that all that He has done for us in Jesus will come to pass.

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

The right answer would be I should be allowed into heaven because of what "Jesus Christ has done for me".