

Romans 3:21 – 4:25

Justified By Faith

Welcome back and here we go! Today we take on justification – simply meaning we have been made just in God's eyes. Today is another long block of scriptures detailing Abraham's experience. *Justification* rests solely on the will of God and our faith in His word. I mean really our example is from 4200 years ago...

Romans 3:21 – 4:25

- 1) What stands out to you?

Again, there is a lot there. But what can we get out of this to help today? *Justification* really is the first step to understanding eternal salvation that is granted by faith.

Chapters 1 – 3:20 really laid out the sinfulness of man. Now we get the solution - redemption through Christ. And while this is all great doctrine, how does the average person understand and apply this truth?

Romans 3:20 – 26

Since all have sinned, all need a savior. While most of us understand this, people --- Christians --- still feel that they must do this or that to be in God's favor.

- 2) What makes people feel justified (right with God) by doing good things?

You know many people grow up learning about a condemning God ----- a God who punishes for misdeeds and the only way to peace with God is good behaviors. And while certainly, we have more peace with God when we are obedient, our status as God's child doesn't change. So, it is not our position in Christ that is challenged, it is our mental attitude or belief about what I deserve for bad behavior or what I would do if in God's place.

Romans 3:27 – 4:4

- 3) *Romans 4:4* states works are counted a debt. Explain:

Romans 4:5

God justified the ungodly! Do you still feel like you deserve Heaven after sinning? Probably not. And the truth is we don't. But none of that matters. God made us JUST and that doesn't change --- ever. It is permanent.

Romans 4:20-25

It says Abraham was fully convinced and did not waiver... Now, I think all of us have faith that waivers under certain circumstances. Hopefully it doesn't waiver at God's faithfulness to complete what He started. If anything, it should be our faith in ourselves that should waiver because of the knowledge of our deep need. The need does not change when we are strong in our walk. Our focus changes to one of security and confidence and if we aren't careful, PRIDE.

Which leads back to your need.

Ephesians 2:8-9

- 4) What do you believe about your own personal salvation?

David said (*Romans 4:6-7*) that we are blessed. My sins are not imputed into me. Reference *Psalms 32*, the companion to our famous *Psalms 51*. David was justified, by faith in God's faithfulness, not by works.

"You do not desire sacrifice... and burnt offerings ... or else I would have given them."

In Zechariah, Joshua, the priest, had filthy robes, but he was still a priest. So are you.....

We are going to cheat and look ahead.

Romans 5:1-2

- 5) How can you find peace with God through *justification*?

It is absolutely a faith thing. Worry --- fear --- anxiety, all point to a lack of trust in God's plan for your life. Mistakes and all, God is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. He WILL allow you to suffer consequences of bad decisions. But you are always saved. Otherwise, Jesus' blood is not enough and you better get to work trying to please God with acts.....

- 6) (Personal) What do you believe happens when you sin, even grievously?

Let's hope that question went well.

Next week: *Romans 5:1-6*