

Righteous By Faith - Part 2 Faith AND or Faith ALONE? Romans 3:27-4:25

In no uncertain terms Paul tells us that we are justified by God through faith alone, apart from any works. That's easy to understand, but so hard to accept! So we are tempted to add our own works back into the equation to earn, keep, or prove our righteous standing before God. Yet in so doing, we dishonor God, divide His family, and destroy our basis for hope and peace in life.

Problem/Solution

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... —Romans 3:23

...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.
—Romans 3:24–25

Faith is necessary, but is it sufficient?

Principle

Justification in the sight of God requires faith and faith alone for every person without exception.

The “law of faith”

Proof: Abraham, our father

“Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; when he was but one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him.” —Isaiah 51:2

Abraham ⇒ Isaac ⇒ Jacob ⇒ The Twelve Tribes of Israel

❖ **Recipient of the Covenant**

❖ **Intertestamental Judaism: Abraham a paragon of virtue**

“Abraham was perfect in all his deeds with the Lord, and well-pleasing in righteousness all the days of his life.” (*Jubilee* 23:10)

Abraham “...did not sin against thee.” (*Prayer of Manasseh* 8)

❖ **Paul: Abraham justified by faith alone, apart from works.**

Righteous BY faith alone because...

⊕ **Adding works steals God’s glory (4:1-8)**

Good works have no place in justification in the sight of God

Good works can be good!

Good works are a part of sanctification

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. —Ephesians 2:8–10

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. —Acts 4:13

For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves....
—2 Corinthians 4:6–7

✚ **Adding ritual divides God’s family (4:9-12, 16-17)**

✚ **Adding law nullifies faith in God’s promise (4:13-15)**

Application

In what do you boast?

“Why should I let you in?”