

Romans 4

Theological vocabulary: righteousness | belief | faith | salvation | grace |
circumcision | seal | wrath | Mosaic Law | justification

A. Salvation is by faith, not by works. Rom. 4:1-6

1. Abraham's belief was counted to him as righteousness before God. Rom. 4:1-3
2. Works do not result in righteousness. Rom. 4:4-6
3. Righteousness comes from faith and not by works. Rom. 4:6-9 (See Ps. 32:1-5)

B. Righteousness is for both the Jew and the Gentile. Rom. 4:9-12

1. Faith came before circumcision. Rom. 9-10
2. Circumcision was a seal of one's [covenantal] faith. Rom. 4:10-12 (see Gen 17:9-14)
3. *The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the seal of a believer's faith in Jesus. (see Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 2:29)*

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee [d] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Eph. 1:13-14

But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. Rom. 2:29

C. Righteousness does not come from following the Mosaic Law. Rom. 4:13-15

1. Righteousness only comes from faith. Rom. 4:13
2. If following the Law was the way to go, then faith and the promise of salvation would be null and void. Rom. 4:14
3. The Law brings wrath, for all men sin. Rom. 4:15 (see Rom. 3:23; James 2:10; Gal. 3:10-14)

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Gal. 3:10-14

D. The promise of salvation by faith rests on God's grace, therefore it brings God glory.

Rom. 4:16-25

1. Just as Abraham's faith was counted to him as righteousness, so too does our faith bring us salvation. Rom. 4:16-17
2. Abraham's faith was evidenced by his unwavering belief in the promises of God. Rom. 4:18-22 (see Gen. 12:1-3; Heb. 11:1, 6)

Now the Lord said [a] to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Gen. 12:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Heb. 11:1

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Heb. 11:6

3. Our belief in Jesus Christ brings about the forgiveness of our sins and therefore justifies us before God. Rom. 4:23-25

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Rom. 10:9-10