



GRACE-POWERED LIVING

A Study of the Book of ROMANS

GOOD NEWS THAT IS GOOD ...BUT NOT NEW Romans 4:1-8

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Introduction: Paul, the master communicator, utilizes two illustrations to reinforce the truth that salvation has always been based on God's grace, not our efforts.

Romans 3:21 "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,"

Righteousness is a gift, not a reward, to those who trust in the redemptive work of Christ:

1. God's righteousness is offered as a **gift**.
2. God's righteousness is based on the **work** of Christ.
3. God's righteousness is received through **faith**.

Romans 3:28 "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

I. The Example of Abraham (Romans 4:1-3)

Romans 4:1-2 "1What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God."

A. Abraham's Importance

B. Abraham's Life

Romans 4:2 "For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God."

Romans 4:3 "For what does the Scripture say? 'And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'"

Genesis 15:6 "Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."

C. Abraham's Justification

Genesis 15:1 "After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision saying, 'Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great.'"

Genesis 15:6 "Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."

1. Abraham's salvation was received through **faith**.

Galatians 3:6-9 "6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations shall be blessed in you.' 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer."

2. Abraham's salvation was based on the death of Christ.

Hebrews 9:13-14 "¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

II. The Example of David (Romans 4:6-8)

Romans 4:6 "Just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works:"

Romans 4:7-8 "⁷'Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. ⁸Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.'"

A. "Forgiven" (Romans 4:7a)

B. "Covered" (Romans 4:7b)

C. "Take into Account" (Romans 4:8)

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III. The Principles from Abraham and David (Romans 4:4-5)

A. To Those Who Understand Their Sin

Romans 4:5 "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,"

B. To Those Who Refuse to Work

Romans 4:4 "Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due."

C. To Those Who Trust in Christ to Save Them

Romans 4:5 "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,"

Conclusion