

Justified By Faith Alone!

May 24th, 2020 – Romans 4:1-25
Pastor Jon Pickens



Paul's Defense of Justification by Faith Alone

1. Paul makes his point using **Scripture**: Abraham believed God, and it was **counted** to him as righteousness. (Romans 4:1-12; Gen. 15:6)
 - a. Consider the **meaning** of being counted righteous by faith.
 - b. Consider the **timing** of Abraham's being counted righteous by faith.
 - c. Consider the **purpose** of Abraham being counted righteous by faith.

2. Paul makes his point through a **theological** premise: God's promise to Abraham was necessarily dependent upon **faith!** (Romans 4:13-17)
 - a. Reason 1: So that it is **consistent** with the basis on which God made the promise.
 - b. Reason 2: So that the promise rests solely on **grace**.
 - c. Reason 3: So that the promise can be **guaranteed** to all his offspring.

3. Paul brings his point to a beautiful **conclusion**: We are **justified** by that same faith! (Romans 4:18-25)
 - a. Abraham's faith was in God's promise to give him an **offspring** that would ultimately bless all nations.
 - b. Our faith is in the **person** and **work** of Jesus Christ, who is the culmination of God's promise to Abraham.
 - c. Therefore, we are **justified** by faith just like Abraham.

My Personal Take-Away from the Message:

Questions to reflect upon:

1. Why was it brilliant for Paul to use this example of Abraham to make his point that we are all justified by faith?
2. What are some of the struggles you have with the idea that your salvation is totally by the grace of God and not something you earned in any way, shape, or form?
3. Say this aloud 3 times, "My salvation is a gift by the grace of God through faith, not something I deserve or earned!" How does your heart respond to that truth?
4. In what ways can you identify with Abraham as he chose to believe God would keep His promise regardless if he understood how God would make it happen?
5. What is one take-a-way from the message this morning that you can respond to?

Next Steps: May Reading Plan (Week 4)

Day One: Acts 27

Day Two: Acts 28

Day Three: Col. 1

Day Four: Col. 2

Day Five: Col. 3

Journaling Tip:

Before you even begin your time reading and journaling, quiet your heart before the Lord and ask Him to teach you more about Him through His Word.

Next Week's Sermon: Reconciling Romans 4 & James 2

May Scripture Memory:

39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? **40** A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. **41** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **42** How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Luke 6:39-41 (ESV)