

Romans 4:1-16

The Book of Romans reveals how man continues to feel the need to have to contribute something to be saved.

Romans Chapter 1 reveals the unrighteous of man, and shows how degraded man becomes when he rejects God. We see it in the news everyday – murders, rapes, school shootings, etc. When you take the sanctity of life (the bible and God) out of life, society degrades.

Romans Chapter 2 reveals how man becomes self-righteous in his behavior and attitude after rejecting God.

Romans Chapter 3 reveals what God thinks of man's attitude in His written Word.

Romans Chapter 4 brings out two men in detail whom the Jewish people are very familiar with: King David and Abraham. Law and Grace. Paul uses these two characters to get the lesson across. The temple was in place, the law was enforced, and sacrifices were going on.

Vs1: What about Abraham? Let's use him as an example of a person who walked this earth at one time.

Vs2: If Abraham was judged by a judge in a civil court for his works, like being good, then he would have something to glorify himself in front of men, but nothing to glorify himself before God. Think Frank Sinatra, "I Did It My Way"...that's not God's way. It doesn't account for any part of your salvation whatsoever.

Vs3: Abraham believed God, and this is all it took for God to judge Abraham as righteous. Today Abraham would be a king with a great army. He was great individual and had a lot to brag about, but none of it counted before God.

Vs4: Grace is unmerited favor. You get something for nothing. Works create a debt. Grace is given freely in exchange for nothing. Grace is what God offers to people when they accept Jesus Christ as their savior.

Vs5: Any individual who doesn't work but believes God and has accepted Jesus Christ as their savior is judged as righteous. By faith you are justified by God.

Vs6: Even as David described the blessedness of a man whom God does not put your sins into your account, but rather the amount of faith you have is counted in your account as righteousness. You become righteous without works by grace through faith alone. God forgave David because he asked for forgiveness and loved and trusted God. That puts you in God's favor like nothing else.

Vs7: David committed a whole bunch of sins, but he got back in fellowship with God because of grace.

Vs8: Blessed is the man who sins are forgiven by God. Just ask for forgiveness, and you will be forgiven through God's grace.

Vs9: here's the issue about the Jews: what do you think? Do Jews only get the blessing or is it for Gentiles also? Using Abraham as an example, his faith was judged righteous.

Vs10: Was Abraham circumcised or not before he was judged righteous before God? Abraham was not circumcised before his favorable judgement through grace. Men are supposed to be circumcised

because men are supposed to be the leaders, and it is a sign that the man is a chosen one by God and a spiritual leader. These days men don't take the spiritual leadership responsibility seriously that God has give them.

Vs11: Abraham received God's favor way before he was circumcised, only because Abraham believed God and trusted Him.

Vs12: the offer of faith today is still to everyone. It doesn't matter if you're circumcised or not. It is to all of mankind.

Vs13: Remember, Abraham is the father of all nations. That is the promise God made to Abraham, because of Abraham's faith. This was 400 years before the laws were given to the people of Israel.

Vs14: think about this: if the promise came because of the law, then faith is made void. What good is it?

Vs15: the law came to the nation of Israel to define God's perfect law to mankind and also to show that mankind could not possible live up to this perfect law. It kills men. Therefore we need faith and salvation. Where's there's no law, there's no sin. The law defines the limits of behavior of men.

Vs16: the promise applies to all mankind, Jews and Gentiles alike, circumcised or not.