

Romans 4:1-8
August 21, 1977

Idea: God declares people righteous by faith alone without any reference to their good works.

Definition: Justification is the act of God that declares a sinner righteous by faith on the merit of Christ's sacrifice. It is the addition of the righteousness of Christ as well as the subtraction of sins.

Importance: NOT ONE person will enter heaven without this justification-righteousness.

Outline:

- I. Abraham was justified by faith alone, not works. 4:1-3
 - A. Remember Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, preceded the giving of the ten commandments and other laws by several hundred years. (v. 1)
 - B. If a person could be declared righteous by God on the basis of his religious achievements he would have something to boast about, to other people, not God. (v. 2)
 - C. Genesis 15:6 (O.T. proof) teaches that Abraham was justified by faith. (v. 3)

- II. One's human achievements can never merit the bestowal of the gift of justification-righteousness. 4:4-5
 - A. The one who works earns a wage, he does not receive a gift. (v. 4)
 - B. The one who believes receives a gift, he does not earn a wage. (v. 5)

Point: (1) Justification-righteousness is a gift!
(2) A gift is received not earned!
(3) The gift is bestowed when faith is exercised apart from any addition of good works.

- III. David was justified by faith alone, not works. 4:6-8
 - A. Remember, David lived under the law, yet he recognized that the law was not given as the means of salvation.
 - B. The only blessed person is the one whom God declares righteous through faith. Works actually impose a curse on men because it is impossible to live a perfect life. (v. 6)
 - C. When God declares a person righteous, He not only adds the righteousness of Christ but He subtracts the guilt of all sin (past, present, future). (vv. 7-8)