

Studies in Romans
Chapter 4:1-8

Review: Romans 1-3:20 defines fully our sinfulness and need of a Saviour. Romans 3:21-26. Provides a glorious overview of how the Lord provides a righteousness for us through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:27-31 teaches that justification by faith eliminates boasting and promotes humility.

Reference	Notations
<p>Rom 4:1-8 NKJV What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?</p> <p>(2) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has <i>something</i> to boast about, but not before God.</p> <p>(3) For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."</p> <p>(4) Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.</p> <p>(5) But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,</p> <p>(6) just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:</p> <p>(7) "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS ARE FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED;</p> <p>(8) BLESSED IS THE MAN TO WHOM THE LORD SHALL NOT IMPUTE SIN."</p>	<p>Gen 15:6; Gen 12:2; Gal 3:16; Jer 23:6 Accounted ~ λογίζομαι (logizomai)</p> <p>Counted ~ λογίζομαι (logizomai)</p> <p>Accounted ~ λογίζομαι (logizomai)</p> <p>Imputes ~ λογίζομαι (logizomai)</p> <p>See Rom. 8:33; Zech 3:4; Jer 31:34; Ps 103:12</p>

'Wearied at length,' says Luther, 'with your own righteousness, rejoice and confide in the righteousness of Christ. Learn, my dear brother, to know Christ, and Christ crucified, and lean to despair of thyself, and to sing to the Lord this song: -- Lord Jesus! Thou art my righteousness, but I am Thy sin. Thou hast taken what belonged to me; Thou hast given me what was Thine. Thou becamest what thou wert not, in order that I might become what I was not myself.' (as quoted in *An Exposition of Romans*, by Robert Haldane on Romans 4:7)

1. If Abraham was justified by works, why would he have something to boast about before men? Can Abraham boast before God?
2. Through what means was Abraham justified by according to the book of Romans?
3. Compare the two words "grace" and "debt" in Romans 4:4
4. Note John Gill on the phrase in v. 6 "... God imputes righteousness apart from the works."

unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works. This righteousness cannot be the righteousness of the law, or man's obedience to it; for that is a righteousness with works, is a man's own, and not imputed; and indeed is not a righteousness in the sight of God: nor does man's blessedness lie in, or come by it; no man is, or can be instilled by it, nor saved by it, or attain to heaven and eternal happiness by the means of it; but the righteousness here spoken of is the righteousness of Christ, called the righteousness of God; and is better than that of angels or men; is complete and perfect; by which the law is honoured, and justice is satisfied. This is freely bestowed, and graciously "imputed" by God. Just in the same way his righteousness becomes ours, as Adam's sin did, which is by imputation; or in the same way that our sins became Christ's, his righteousness becomes ours; and as we have no righteousness of our own when God justifies us, this must be done by the righteousness of another; and that can be done no other way by the righteousness of another, than by imputing it to us: and which is done "without works"; not without the works of Christ, of which this righteousness consists; but without the works of the creature, or any consideration of them, which are utterly excluded from justification; for if these came into account, it would not be of grace, and boasting would not be removed. Now such who have this righteousness thus imputed to them, are happy persons; they are justified from all sin, and freed from all condemnation; their persons and services are acceptable to God; it will be always well with them; they are heirs of glory, and shall enjoy it.

5. What two aspects of justification are taught in Romans 4:1-8?