

# ROMANS

## PART 7: HOW DOES A SINNER BECOME RIGHT BEFORE A HOLY GOD?



Romans Chapter 4

Mike Taylor [www.TaylorNotes.Info](http://www.TaylorNotes.Info)



In Romans Chapter 4 Paul is anticipating the objections of Christian Jews who have been taught all their lives that Abraham was justified by his obedience to the law. The point Paul is making in Chapter 4 is that Abraham was declared righteous by God before he underwent the rite of circumcision, which is the mark of faithfulness to the Jews. Paul then explains that because Abraham believed God by faith before his circumcision, he is the father of both the uncircumcised (i.e. Gentiles who have faith in God) and the circumcised (the Jews). To

the Jewish mind this was heresy because they counted Abraham as only their father, which set them apart from the rest of the world.

### A. MAIN IDEA

Sinners become right (justified) before a holy God by his grace, through faith, not by works.

### B. KEY WORDS

1. Faith (Noun: Gk. *pistis*): Saving faith is believing that God is who he says he is, and will do what he said he will do. It is believing something in the absence of proof (Heb. 11:1).
2. Impute (KJV/NKJ, Gk. *logizomai*): to charge or credit to someone's account.
3. Righteousness (Gk. *dikaioō*): To be made right ("not guilty") before God; to be justified.
4. Trust/believe (Verb: Gk. *pisteuō*): A verbal form of faith; to have faith in God by believing him.

### C. CHAPTER 4 OUTLINE

1. Abraham and David: Examples of justification (1-8)
  - How Abraham was justified (1-5)
  - The testimony of David (6-8)
2. Justification by faith is for Jews and Gentiles (9-25)
  - Because Abraham was justified before circumcision (9-12)
  - Because the promise to Abraham was given through faith (13-25)

## D. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Where does faith come from? (Hint: see Heb. 12:2)
2. Even though many Christians understand they are saved by faith, not by works, why do many feel they must work to retain their salvation?
3. Is it correct to say we are we saved by faith?
4. Paul states that we are saved by faith not by works (Rom. 4; Eph. 2:8-9), yet James states that faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:20). Which one is correct?

## E. SUMMARY

1. Faith must mean the end of any attempt to earn God's favor through \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It's not the \_\_\_\_\_ of my faith that counts, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my faith.
3. Faith is believing God is \_\_\_\_\_, and will do what he \_\_\_\_\_.
4. True faith always results in good works, but works \_\_\_\_\_ justified before a holy God.

### Resources used in this study

Clark, Chap. *Creative Bible Lessons in Romans*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan; Intervarsity Press, 1994, 2000.

Guzik, David. n.d. *Blue Letter Bible*. 22 February 2019. <[www.BlueLetterBible.org](http://www.BlueLetterBible.org)>.

MacArthur, John and Richard Mayhue. *Bible Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*. Wheaton: Crossway Publishers, 2017.

Mounce, William D. *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Swindoll, Charles R. *The Pauline Epistles: Romans*. 2019. *The Bible-Teaching Ministry of Charles Swindoll - Insight for Living*. August 2019 (Online). <<https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/romans>>.