

Saved by Faith

Romans 4:1-15

We are all taught from a very early age that we must work hard to make something of ourselves. We are taught that with hard work come many of the benefits of this life. We are encouraged to be all that each of us can be. Motivational speakers tell us that if our attitudes are right, and if we truly apply ourselves, nothing will be impossible for us. The problem comes when you apply this to Christianity.

A lot of people believe that if you try to do the best you can, everything will work out concerning going to heaven. The real problem with this thinking is that it is totally wrong. This is entirely the opposite of what the Bible teaches concerning salvation. The Bible teaches that we are saved by faith, not by works.

Simply put, the Bible teaches that faith is all you need. Faith is the key to our salvation.

No One Exalted – No One Excluded

Paul, thus far in the book of Romans, has shown this fallacy to be a misunderstanding of the way to heaven. He has shown that it is not by attempting to be righteous that any of us gain entrance to God's kingdom. It is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ that we must be saved. Now he turns his attention to explain this truth. He uses two illustrations to make his point clear. Both are from the Old Testament.

*“What then shall we say that **ABRAHAM**, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.”* Romans 4.1-2

“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3.21-24

“Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.” Romans 3.27-28

“What does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’” Romans 4.3; **Genesis 15.6**

*“Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. **DAVID** says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:*

Blessed are they

*whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.*

Blessed is the man

whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” Romans 4.4-8; **Psalm 32.1-2**

2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

Neither the Rites nor the Rules of Religion

“Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.” Romans 4.9-15