

Are Good People Good Enough?

Is justification by faith really needed by everyone, even truly good people such as Abraham?

Romans 4

Main idea of this section of Romans: God has provided righteousness on the basis of Christ's death for all who believe.

Justification is the imputation of the righteousness of God, 3:21-5:21

1. Explanation: God's Righteousness is acquired apart from the Law by all who believe in Christ Jesus. 3:21-31
2. Illustration: God's righteousness (justification) was available by faith in times past as is illustrated by Abraham. 4:1-25
3. Expectation: The benefit of justification is peace with God and a sure hope of final salvation. 5:1-11

Introduction: What kind of person does God like?

A. The Case of Abraham. (1)

B. Was Abraham's Justification By His Good Works Or By Faith? (2-12)

1. The Scripture teaches justification is by faith (2-8)
 - a. Witness #1: Abraham. (2-3)
 - 1) Genesis 15:1-6
 - 2) Galatians 3:6-9
 - b. Futility of works or the effectiveness of faith (4-5)
 - c. Witness #2: David (6-8)
 - 1) Psalm 32:1-5

2. Abraham's justification was not by the Law or its sign (circumcision). (9-12)
 - a. Its timing (9-10)
 - b. Its purpose (11a)

C. Abraham's covenant was not by the Law. (13-15)

1. Abraham is the father of faith (11b-12)
2. Abraham's covenant was not by the Law (13-15)
3. Abraham's justification was by faith. (16-22)
 - a. Genesis 17:1-16
 - b. Genesis 17:17
4. Abraham's justification by faith serves as an example of faith for us. (23-24)

Conclusion