

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans 1:16-3:26

- *God is justified and sinners are justified...*
 - (1) in Christ alone (*death and resurrection*)
 - (2) by grace alone (*manner*)
 - (3) through faith alone (instrument)

Romans 3:27-4:25

- *Justification by Faith Alone*
 - (1) Excludes boasting
 - (2) Includes Gentiles
 - (3) Establishes the Law

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?
² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³ For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

(Romans 4:1-3)

Example of Abraham

- Why Abraham?
 - He was the father of the Jewish people
 - He was seen by Jews as the model of obedience by which he was righteous before God
 - He was first given (and believed) the promise which is now fulfilled in Christ

Example of Abraham

- What is Paul asking?
 - He asks us to consider what Abraham found to be the case in regard to justification
 - "What does the Scripture say?" (Genesis 15:6)

Example of Abraham

⁴ Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." ⁵ And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ *Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

(Genesis 15:4-6)

Example of Abraham

➤ Romans 4:1-8:

- The reckoning of Abraham's faith as righteousness is entirely a gracious act that rules out all boasting and any appeal to works

Example of Abraham

1. Abraham is no exception to "no boasting"

- there can never be any boasting before God based on human achievement
- justification cannot be by works since this would necessarily include boasting

Example of Abraham

2. Abraham's faith was credited as righteousness

- in believing, Abraham did not work but trusted in God's work/promise
- being reckoned as righteous was a gift of God's grace, not a wage earned by works