

**20230521 YOU ARE HAPPY BECAUSE YOU ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS
WITHOUT WORKING FOR IT.**

(Understanding the Gospel Part 6)

Romans 4:1-8

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter?

2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God.

3 What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.

5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.

Recap what we learned last week from Romans chapter 3.

Truth # 1: All people fall short of God's glorious ideal.

Truth # 2: God's laws serve only to make us see that we all have the same problem of sin.

Truth # 3: God has shown us a different way to heaven, that is, a new way to have the right relationship with God (even though it's not really new because this way has been the only way from the very beginning).

Truth # 4: God declares us "not guilty" of offending Him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.

Possible confusion from chapter 3: Grace vs the Law

Romans 3:10-12

There is no one righteous, not even one;

there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.

Romans 3:24

24 ...all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Mixed response: Does grace nullify the law?

Romans 3:31

31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

1. GOD'S GRACE IN CHRIST FOR US.

Romans 10:1-3

1 Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

3 Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Romans 4:1

1 Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God?

Romans 4:7-8

7 "Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sins are put out of sight.

8 Yes, what joy for those
whose record the LORD has cleared of sin." (Also Psalm 32:1-2)

You are a very happy person because you are declared righteous without working for it:

2. THE JUSTICE OF GOD IN HIS JUDGMENT

(1) Unbelievers will be judged by Christ.

1 Timothy 2:4

4 God our Savior wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Revelation 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from His presence, but they found no place to hide.

12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And **the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.**

13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And **all were judged according to their deeds.**

14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. **This lake of fire is the second death.**

15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

(2) Believers will be judged by Christ.

Romans 14:12

12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may **receive what is due us for the things done while in the body**, whether good or bad.

1 Samuel 15:22

22 ...Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

1 Corinthians 3:11-13

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

1 Corinthians 3:14-15

14 If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.

15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Application

One to One discipleship training