

Justified By Faith

Lesson 3

October 27

Romans 3:24-4:25;

Galatians 2:15-16; 3:7-9

Remember the goal of the gospel and Paul's stated goal for his letter to the Romans—"to bring about the obedience of faith" (Rom 1:5; 16:26). Even though we heard really bad news in our last lesson, somehow, the gospel extends the opportunity for "the righteous" to "live by faith" (1:17). How?

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom 3:21-26)

In Romans 3:27, Paul asks a really important question: "Then what becomes of our boasting?" If we've sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we certainly don't have any good reason to boast in ourselves. We're the ones who've failed! But this is where Paul brings up the example of Abraham from Genesis 15:4-6 when the LORD invited him to "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." The LORD promised, "So shall your offspring be."

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." (Rom 4:3)

Abraham was nearly 100 years old, but God had made a promise and Abraham was "fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith 'was counted to him as righteousness'" (4:21-22). Now listen carefully...




But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (4:23-25)

In Galatians 2:15-16, Paul makes the same point. "By works of the law no one will be justified," but all *can* be justified through faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:7-9 summarizes the big idea for us:

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Paul has given us a lot to think about and discuss, so let's dig in...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- In **Romans 3:21**, Paul writes, “although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it.” What is he talking about? What were “the Law and the Prophets” bearing witness to, and what does this teach us about the Old Testament?
- When you think about this idea of being “justified” (**Rom 3:22-24**), what goes through your mind? Why do we even *need* to be “justified,” and in your own words, what is happening as we *are* “justified”? 
- **Romans 3:24-25** describes Christ Jesus as having been put forward by God “as a propitiation” and our video defined that big word as “a sacrifice to atone.” That sounds like a really important principle to understand, so let’s think through it together. What does it mean for Jesus to be our “propitiation”?
- How does Jesus’ sacrifice “show God’s righteousness,” revealing him to be “just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (**Rom 3:26**)?
- If all of this is true, why is our boasting “excluded” (**Rom 3:27**)?
- In your own words, what really important point is Paul making about Abraham in **Romans 4:1-3**?
- Let’s read **Romans 4:9-12** together. In your own words, what fundamental truth is Paul teaching us? What will it mean to “walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had”?
- **Romans 4:23-25**, **Galatians 2:15-16**, and **3:7-9** all point us to Jesus, so let’s make sure the big idea of this lesson is clear in our minds. Why do we need to have faith in Jesus and what difference can it make in our lives?