

FAITH IS COUNTED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Quick recap

- Ch1 – Paul's introduction
- Ch2 to Ch3 – Paul establishes that:
 1. God is righteous and just
 2. All have sinned and are in need of salvation
 3. Righteousness is a gift from God and is not through works
- Ch4 – The gift of righteousness and Abraham

Romans 4:13-25

13 It was not through the 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. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Romans 4:13-25

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." 23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Gift vs Obligation

- All have sinned but God still desires relationship
- What is righteousness?
- What is righteousness counted as faith?
- God's promise does not come through observing the law. Otherwise his promise is useless
- If I use works then righteousness is an obligation
- If so, why talk of gift, righteousness and Abraham?

Gift vs Obligation

- When righteousness becomes an obligation we must face judgment when we fail
- Why? – because where there is law there is wrath
- So must rejoice that there is no law and that righteousness is a gift

Why a gift?

1. Righteousness is through faith by grace

- God loved us whilst we were still his enemies

Titus 3:3-8 MSG says:

It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, dupes of sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.

Why a gift?

2. So that none may boast and so that it may be received by all

Gal 3:10 – 13 says:

All those who rely on the works of the Law are under a curse, because it is written, Everyone is cursed who does not keep on doing all the things that have been written in the Law scroll. 11 But since no one is made righteous by the Law as far as God is concerned, it is clear that the righteous one will live on the basis of faith. 12 The Law isn't based on faith; rather, the one doing these things will live by them. 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us—because it is written, Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed. 14 He redeemed us so that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, and that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Why a gift?

- If not, there would be no guarantee or universal application in the promise
- We are inherently sinful
- Works must flow from a heart that is set right
- Genuine faith looks to Christ's finished work on the Cross and rests in it
- Genuine faith receives righteousness as a gift

How do I receive this gift?

- One word – FAITH
- And ALL God's promises are received through faith