

# Justification *By Faith*



David C. Mills  
February 3, 2004  
Romans Chapter 4

As we take a look at Romans, Chapter 4, we see a perfect illustration of Justification. Justification means “to declare righteous”<sup>1</sup>, and in context relating to one being declared perfectly righteous through Jesus Christ. One of Satan’s greatest lies to the world, is one in which he gives man the idea that if he can just be good enough, or if he obeys enough religious rites, he has the ability to “work” his way into heaven. This false concept is completely separate from and having no regard for the substitutionary death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Righteousness is neither a commodity that can be bought nor one that can be bargained with. As we see plainly in scripture (Romans 4:3) it was Abraham’s faith and belief in God, which granted him the grace to be declared righteous. It was not Abraham’s obedience to the Law that placed him in the position of being justified. The Law was given by God to convict men’s hearts, that they might realize their condition before a Holy, Holy, Holy God.

And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

- Romans 11:6

If through Abraham’s obedience, he was able to earn justification, we are faced with at least two problems. First, in chapter 4 and verse 2 we see that if Abraham’s justification was one earned by works, he would have had great opportunity and privilege to boast of his own accomplishments. And secondly, in verse 4 we see that God would have been obligated to Abraham for his works.

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<sup>1</sup> Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible and Christianity, Cloud, David, pp. 257, Justification.

As I read through chapter 4 of Romans I see no boasting of behalf of Abraham, either stated or implied. Nor do I see any such example throughout the canon of scripture that would imply the same. Also, the idea that God is by any means indebted to His creation and the works thereof, are simply not supported by scripture. If such were the case, God would also not be glorified, neither would there be a reason for such and would contradict Mathew 5:16. (Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.)

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

- Genesis 15:6

Justification was not obtained by Abraham through his works, his circumcision, or by any covenant. Weren't it not for Abrahams belief in the substitutionary sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all his works and religious obedience, he would surely have been condemned to a fiery Hell.

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