



Faith Alone Romans 3:21 – 4:25

Getting Right With God (According to God) Romans 3:21-31

"...even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe..." (v.22)

- **I'm lost. Now what?** Romans 3:21-23
"...for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (v.23)
- **God's solution to God's dilemma.** Romans 3:24-26
"...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith." (v.25)
- **God saves. We don't.** Romans 3:27-31
"Where then is boasting? It is excluded." (v.27)
"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Getting Right With God (According to Us) Romans 4:1-15

- **We are NOT saved by WORKS** Romans 4:1-8
"...if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God." (v.2)
- **We are NOT saved by RELIGION** Romans 4:9-12
"Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also?" (v.9)
- **We are NOT saved by the LAW** Romans 4:13-15
"For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law..." (v.13)

Living A Life With The Authentic Faith Of Abraham Romans 4:16-25

"For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all," (Romans 4:16)

- **The importance of Father Abraham having many sons** Romans 4:16-22
"...as it is written, 'A father of many nations have I made you'" (v.17)
"Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore...By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.' He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead (Hebrews 11:12,17-19)
- **Salvation extended for our sake also** Romans 4:23-25
"Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead..." (v.23-24)

Digging Deeper

This Scripture from Romans 3:21-26 has been called the section that proves the intelligence of the Christian. It is one paragraph made up of virtually one sentence, with a break in verse 25. One scholar has said that you can tell the intelligence of the Christian based on their understanding of this passage. There are enough theological terms in these verses for a lifetime of study. Below are some simple definitions of some of Paul's theological terms and places you can read more about these concepts. Many of these words can be studied in greater depth using a resource called the Holman Bible Dictionary. You can find this as well as many other resources online at www.studylight.org

Righteousness: the state of being right with God (similar to Justice)

- Matthew 6:33 ; Acts 17:31 ; Romans 1:17 ; Ephesians 4:24 ; James 1:20

Justice: held to a equal and fair standard

- Psalm 99:1-4 ; Genesis 18:25 ; Deuteronomy 32:4 ; Jeremiah 9:24

Law: the first 5 Books of the Old Testament - rules and restrictions - the Torah

- Deuteronomy 4:8 ; Deuteronomy 30:10 ; Deuteronomy 32:46

Faith: confidence and trust in God (being sure of what we cannot see)

- Ephesians 2:8-9 ; Acts 26:18 ; Acts 15:9 ; Romans 4:5 ; Romans 5:1 ; Galatians 3:24

Justified: made right (just as I never sinned)

- Romans 4:18-25 ; 1 Corinthians 1:30 ; 1 Corinthians 6:11 ; 1 Timothy 3:16 ; 1 Peter 3:18

Grace: unmerited favor from God (getting something you don't deserve)

- Romans 12:3 ; Romans 15:15 ; 1 Corinthians 3:10 ; 2 Corinthians 1:12 ; Galatians 2:9 ; Ephesians 3:2

Redemption: salvation from sin and its consequences (buying back a slave)

- Psalm 31:5 ; Psalm 71:23 ; Psalm 107:2 ; Acts 20:28

Sacrifice: to make an offering/giving up something costly

- Ephesians 5:2 ; 1 Corinthians 5:7 ; Philippians 2:18 ; Philippians 4:18

Atonement: the covering over of sin, the reconciliation between God and man through Jesus Christ.

- Romans 5:10-11 ; Romans 11:15 ; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Forbearance: restraint or tolerance; patience

- 2 Peter 3:15 ; Romans 2:4

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What have been some of the actions in your life that you have done or been doing to try to earn your salvation?
2. Read through the narrative of Abraham and his son Isaac from Genesis 22. How does the faith of Abraham embolden you to live your life with an authentic faith?
3. How was your life "as good as dead?" Do you know others who you would place in that same category?
4. Think of Jesus as your redemption, your propitiation, your payment. How should we respond to Him?

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord!** Use the booklet in the seat rack called, "The Way to Connect with God" to help you understand who Jesus is and to help guide you through a prayer placing your faith in Him as Savior and Lord.
2. **Have more questions about God and who Jesus is?** Attend the **Alpha Course** beginning, February 5th at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby. This will help you understand the basics of the Christian faith and explore your questions, doubts or thoughts you have about the Gospel of Jesus. Learn more about the Alpha Course at calvarylife.org/alpha
3. **Find a discipleship mentor through Growing in Christ.** Discipleship is being mentored in what it means to follow Jesus. To find out how you can be mentored, contact Ross Strachan at 714.541.1053 for more info.



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