

FAITH AND JUSTIFICATION: THE WAY FOR THE WORLD TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD

(100)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Romans 3:21-5:21](#)

(Continuation from 11/18/18)

C. Logic: The Evidence that Faith Alone Justifies a Man, [Romans 4:1-8](#)

Romans 4:1-8 (NASB)

¹“What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

⁴Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

⁵But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

⁸BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.”

Introduction: most people think they become acceptable to God by doing the best they can. Most actually believe they secure God’s approval by being reasonably good: by being a respectable and upright citizen and by occasionally helping others who are less fortunate. But note a startling fact: a man is not justified by works, but by faith. Logic proves the fact.

1. **The logic of Abraham’s justification (v.1-3).**
2. **The logic of the worker or laborer (v.4-5).**
3. **The logic of David’s “blessed man” (v.6-8).**

2. [\(Romans 4:4-5\) Works— Righteousness: the logic of the worker or laborer.](#)

Romans 4:4-5 (NASB)

⁴“Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

⁵But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

A person can look at the day to day laborer and logically see that a man is not justified by works but by faith.

11-25-18

Series: The Book of Romans

1. Works mean *debt*. When a man works, someone owes him something. If a man could work for righteousness, that is, work so that God would owe him righteousness, then God would owe man. But God, being God, is completely self-sufficient; therefore, He cannot be put in debt to any man. He cannot *be made or forced* to do anything.

2. Believing in God means righteousness. It is the “**ungodly**” who believe who are counted righteous (cp. [Romans 5:6](#)).

[Romans 5:6 \(NASB\)](#)

6 “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

This is because the man who admits he is ungodly is the man who rejects self, sensing his need for *godly help* in spiritual matters. He is ready to give himself up and honor and glorify God alone. Therefore, he centers and wraps his whole life around God, depending solely upon God for righteousness.

Thought 1. God can never turn away from a person who senses and confesses his ungodliness and who wishes to recognize and glorify God. God is love, and God's love is bound to be moved by so humble an act and faith.

[Romans 4:3 \(NASB\)](#)

3 “For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

[Romans 5:1 \(NASB\)](#)

1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

[Galatians 3:6 \(NASB\)](#)

6 “Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

[Philippians 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

9 “And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”

The converse teaching of Scripture needs to be remembered: the man who does not admit he is ungodly, who does not reject self and sense the need for godly help is the man declared to be self-sufficient and self-righteous. Therefore, he is pronounced unjustified, not so much because God rejects him as the fact that he has already rejected God.

[John 3:18 \(NASB\)](#)

18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

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John 8:24 (NASB)

²⁴ “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

Hebrews 3:12 (NASB)

¹² “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.”

Proverbs 20:6 (NASB)

⁶ “Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man?” (cp. [Matthew 7:21](#))

Matthew 7:21 (NASB)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.”

Proverbs 30:12 (NASB)

¹² “There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes Yet is not washed from his filthiness.”