

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

(101)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

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

(Continuation from 11/25/18)

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

**Romans 4:1-8 (NASB)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup>BLESSED 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).**

### 3. [\(Romans 4:6-8\) Forgiveness— Impute: the logic of David's \*blessed man\*.](#)

**Romans 4:6-8 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“Just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

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<sup>8</sup>BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE Lord WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.”

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**Romans 4:6-8 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> “Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God **imputeth** righteousness without works,

<sup>7</sup> *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*

<sup>8</sup> *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not **impute** sin.”*

A person can look at prophecy, at the man described by David and see clearly that justification is not by works but by faith (cp. [Psalm 32:1-2](#)).

**Psalms 32:1-2 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

<sup>2</sup> How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit!”

Note who the blessed man is.

**Romans 4:6-8 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> “Just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God **credits** righteousness apart from works:

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

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<sup>8</sup> *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not **impute** sin.”*

Note who the blessed man is.

1. The blessed man is the man who is *counted* righteous without works. Note the word “impute”, “credit”, or “Take into account”. (*logizomai*). It means to reckon, to count, to put to one’s account, to credit, to deposit.

Just think for a moment. If God credits and counts a man righteous “without works,” then we know something: *Man is not justified by works, but by faith.* (See [Deeper Study # 2, Reckon—Romans 6:11](#) see below for more discussion.)

**Pure logic tells us this.** Therefore, the blessed man is the man who has righteousness *imputed, credited, counted* to him...

- a) not because of his works,
- b) but because he believes God, and God loves him so much that He takes the man’s belief and counts it as righteousness.

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2. The blessed man is the man whose sins are forgiven and covered. Think for a moment. Lawlessness (**sin**) exists despite all the works and efforts of men to eliminate it. No matter how hard men try, lawlessness still exists. If lawlessness is to be handled, it has to be handled by God and God alone. He simply has to forgive man's lawlessness (**sin**).

**Now note:** logic tells us that if God loves that much, loves enough to simply forgive men for sin, then justification is not by law but by faith.

3. The blessed man is the man whose sins are not imputed or counted against him. **Note:** it is not the acts of men, but the act of God that justifies men and does not count sin against them. A man cannot justify himself before God. No man can free himself from sin and force God to accept him—not by his own hand. Justification—complete deliverance from sin and condemnation—comes from God and from God alone, not from some act of man. Therefore, logic tells us that it is not works that justifies a man, but faith.

**Isaiah 38:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> “Lo, for *my own* welfare I had great bitterness; It is You who has kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.”

**Isaiah 43:25 (NASB)**

<sup>25</sup> “I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.”

**Isaiah 44:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup> “I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”

**Isaiah 55:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> “Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”

**Psalms 78:38 (NASB)**

<sup>38</sup> “But He, being compassionate, forgave *their* iniquity and did not destroy *them*; And often He restrained His anger and did not arouse all His wrath.”

**Psalms 85:2 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> “You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin. Selah.”

**Psalms 103:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> “Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.”

**Psalms 103:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

**Psalms 130:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> “But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.”

**Micah 7:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.”

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**1 Corinthians 15:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

**Galatians 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“Who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”

**Ephesians 1:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup>“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

**1 Peter 2:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup>“And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

**1 John 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Revelation 1:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.”