

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

(99)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

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

(Continuation from 11/11/18)

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” \(v.6-8\).](#)

[1. \(Romans 4:1-3\) Abraham— Righteousness— Justification— Works vs. Faith: the logic of Abraham’s justification.](#)

[Romans 4:1-3 \(NASB\)](#)

¹What 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.

11-18-18

Series: The Book of Romans

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

Paul says, “**What then shall we say.**” This phrase ties Abraham to the previous chapter. It ties Abraham to “**faith.**” Paul uses Abraham to illustrate a key truth of the Bible... a man is made right with God by faith in Christ, not works. He uses Abraham to show this truth.

Salvation by faith in the Lord is not a new concept. Abraham was the first patriarch and an example of godliness to the Jews. He was a model of righteousness. Abraham lived before the Law of God was ever given. He was not saved by the deeds of the Law, but by faith in Christ. Using Abraham as an object lesson, Paul addresses the issue of works and faith.

A person can look at Abraham’s life and logically see that a man is not justified by works but by faith.

1. Abraham was not justified by works, for works *cannot qualify* a person to glory before God.

Now note this: if Abraham had been justified by works...

- a) he *would be* qualified to glory before men.
- b) but he *would not be* qualified to glory before God.

Think about it—the logic, the clarity of the matter. No man is ever qualified to glory before God. No act or work or combination of acts and works could ever elevate man to such a height that he could glory or become qualified before God.

2. Abraham was justified by believing God. What happened was this. Abraham believed God, and God took Abraham’s belief and counted his belief as righteousness. It was not Abraham’s works, but his faith that God took and counted as righteousness. It was all an act of God; therefore, all glory belonged to God, not to Abraham. Man is saved by faith; that is, God takes a man’s faith and counts that man’s faith as righteousness.

Such has to be the case.

- a) God is perfect; He is perfectly righteous. No man can achieve perfection; therefore, no man can live in the presence of God.
- b) However, God is love. So what God does is take a person’s faith (any person’s faith who is truly sincere) and counts that faith as righteousness, as perfection. Therefore, a man is able to live in God’s presence by faith or justification.

Matthew 7:22-23 (NASB)

²² “**Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’**

²³ “**And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’**”

11-18-18

Series: The Book of Romans

Romans 3:20 (NASB)

²⁰ “Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.”

Galatians 2:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Titus 3:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ “But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,
⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

Thought 1. Why does God justify a man through faith?

There are at **least two reasons.**

First, God loves everyone with a perfect love. God wants everyone to live with Him in a *perfect state of being* throughout all eternity. God is perfect; therefore, He alone can provide the only perfect way for man to live in His presence. Because God is love, He has reached out for man by providing that perfect way through Jesus Christ, His Son.

John 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

John 5:24 (NASB)

²⁴ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

Romans 5:8 (NASB)

⁸ “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ “For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

Second, God loves His Son with a perfect love. Any person who honors God’s Son by believing in Him is accepted by God. That is, God takes that person’s belief and counts it as righteousness. The person receives the right to live in God’s presence in a *perfect state of*

11-18-18

Series: The Book of Romans

being. “We have obtained an inheritance...**that we should be**” (a state of *being* that is to be eternally lived to the praise of God’s glory—[Ephesians 1:11-12](#)).

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ “Also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.”

Matthew 17:5 (NASB)

⁵ “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

John 10:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.”

John 15:9 (NASB)

⁹ “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”

John 16:27 (NASB)

²⁷ “For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.”

John 17:23 (NASB)

²³ “I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

John 17:26 (NASB)

²⁶ “And I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Ephesians 1:6 (NASB)

⁶ “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”

Colossians 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”