

Series on Romans for Airdrie Baptist Church, Autumn 2021

Session 3 Romans 3:21-5:21

Man's Faith and God's Justification

Since both Jew and Gentile alike are to be judged for their sinful condition, and since even the Jews, who have the Law, cannot be justified by works of the Law, how then is it possible for any man to be counted righteous before God? Faith in Jesus Christ is the key. Such faith establishes the believer as justified before God.

Of course, the Law was not a hoax, but it was never intended to save, rather to point to the need for salvation through faith. In chapter four Paul draws upon Abraham as an exemplar of the kind of faith required, even by the Jews. Since justification is achieved by faith, righteousness is available to Jews and Gentile alike, on an equal basis. Both are recipients of God's grace.

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| A. | Faith in Jesus Christ Reveals the Righteousness of God | 3:21-26 |
| 1. | The Jews (Prophets and the Law) bear witness to Christ | 3:21 |
| 2. | But all who believe attain righteousness in Jesus | 3:23-26 |
| B. | Neither Can Boast: All Are Justified through Faith | 3:27-4:25 |
| 1. | Boasting of works of the Law is futile | 3:27-31 |
| 2. | Righteousness cannot be a gift if based on works | 4:1-5 |
| 3. | The examples of Abraham and David | 4:1-15 |
| | a. God covers the sins of men – justification | |
| | b. God justified Abraham through faith | |
| | c. Abraham was counted righteous before he was circumcised, therefore faith preceded the work | |
| 4. | Abraham's faith anticipated the work of nation-building | 4:16-22 |
| 5. | Our faith anticipates the justifying work of the Resurrection | 4:23-25 |
| C. | The Benefit of Justification is Reconciliation to God | 5:1-11 |
| 1. | Believers have peace with God | 5:1 |
| 2. | Believers have hope in God | 5:2-5 |
| 3. | Believers enjoy the love of God | 5:6-11 |
| D. | The Benefit of Justification is Available to All Men | 5:12-21 |
| 1. | Sin and death was transmitted to all men through Adam | 5:12-14 |
| 2. | Justification is made available to all men through Christ | 5:15-19 |
| 3. | The role of the Law was to highlight man's sin | 5:20-21 |