

Incredible Discoveries—Romans 4:1-8

February 26, 2023

Introduction: I wonder if any of you here like to explore . . .

BIG IDEA:

Discovering the grace of God in salvation _____ our _____ !

From the example of Abraham, we learn **three tangible effects** that our discovery of God's grace in salvation has on our lives:

1) DISCOVERING THE GRACE OF GOD HELPS US THINK RIGHTLY ABOUT OUR _____ (VS. 1-2)

A. Our efforts may produce _____
"For if Abraham was justified out of works, he has a reason for boasting . . ."

B. Our efforts always reveal _____
"But not towards God."

2) DISCOVERING THE GRACE OF GOD HELPS US THINK RIGHTLY ABOUT OUR _____ (VS. 3)

A. Our faith demands a _____
"Abraham believed God . . ."

B. Our faith provokes a _____
"and it was counted to him for righteousness"

3. DISCOVERING THE GRACE OF GOD HELPS US THINK RIGHTLY ABOUT OUR _____ (VS. 4-8)

A. Our standing is _____
"The one who works, his wage is not counted according to grace, but according to what is due."

B. Our standing is _____
"But to the one not working but believing in the one justifying the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness."

A word from David regarding our standing:

- Our secure standing brings the joy of **forgiveness**
"Blessed are the ones whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered up."
- Our secure standing brings the joy of **release**
"Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."

NEXT STEPS:

- **TREASURE** what you've discovered
- **EMBRACE** what others have discovered
- **SHARE** what you've discovered
- **HELP** someone in their discovery

CONNECT CARD:

- How has discovering God's grace in salvation impacted your life?
- How may we help & pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Starting off: Read the text out loud—Romans 4:1-8

1. How should this passage impact my love for Jesus? How does this passage prepare me to share my love for Jesus?
2. How does this passage contribute to our understanding of what happens at salvation? What other aspects of the salvation process might this text not address?
3. How would you describe justification and its implications to an unbeliever who wonders: "what's the big deal about Jesus?"
4. Based on the truths in this text, what makes our church different from a Mormon Tabernacle, Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall, or even a Jewish synagogue?
5. Suppose you have a friend who is a believer but struggles with doubting that his/her faith in God actually "does something" spiritually. Your friend says: "sometimes I just don't feel saved." How can you use this passage to help your friend have assurance in his/her faith and even grow stronger in his/her faith?
6. How does this passage offer hope to those caught in a cycle of sin? How does it offer hope to those who feel they have to earn God's love?
7. Romans 4:8 speaks of forgiveness and release. If Jesus did this for us, what are the implications for our relationships with others? Consider the following "promises of Biblical forgiveness"; are you living them?

"I will not dwell on this incident."

"I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you."

"I will not talk to others about this incident."

"I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship."¹

¹ Taken from "Resolving Everyday Conflict" by Ken Sande and Kevin Johnson.