



pneuma church

relate · renew · release

“Its all about that Grace”

1 Corinthians 15 ¹⁰ *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

Romans 4 Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? ² If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. ³ For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." ⁴ When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. ⁵ But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

It is extremely important for us to understand **grace** and **legalism**.

You look at everything in your life either by **grace** or by **legalism**.

You look at everything in your life either as a **gift** or as **earned**.

You see **God** according to your
understanding of **Grace**.

You see **yourself** according to your
understanding of **Grace**.

You see **others** according to your
understanding of **Grace**.

Another word for legalism is perfectionism.

See with God it works this way – If you are going to keep the law – you have to keep it perfectly.

Question to guy on the street:

What do you have to do to go to heaven?

Be a good person, do more good than bad.

Here is the only problem with that:
God's standard is not good...it's perfection.

Question: Is there anyone here that has broken every law there is?

James 2 :10 ⁰ *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Is there anyone here who has made one little slip?

God's standard isn't, "Oh, he does more good than bad." No, God's standard is perfection. So how in the world will I ever get to heaven?

For if Abraham was justified by works. He has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

1. Abraham believed.
2. It was accounted.
3. For righteousness.

1. What is righteousness?

If I said, “Pastor Mark is a righteous man.” What would you think about Mark if I said that?

Is he righteous because he lives righteously?

Or does he live righteously because he is righteous?

That is grace versus legalism.

Righteousness in right standing with God.

I am not in right standing with God because I do right things or because I can't do enough right things.

I am in right standing with God because Jesus did right things and I believe in Jesus.

Question: Can an unrighteous man do a righteous deed?

Do those good things make the unrighteous man righteous?

Question: Can a righteous man do a unrighteous deed?

Now do those unrighteous deeds make the man who is in right standing with God unrighteous?

So here is the question: Can an **unrighteous** man do a **righteous** deed? Yes. Does the **righteous** deed that the **unrighteous** man does make him **righteous**?

Can a **righteous** man do an **unrighteous** deed? Yes, we have done many. Does the **unrighteous** deed that the **righteous** man does make him **unrighteous**? No.

Now I am not saying that God is pleased with it and I am also not saying that there are no consequences when we live unrighteously.

Does our righteousness depend on our **performance** or on our **position** with God?

Does our **position** depend on our performance?

So what is righteousness? **It is right standing with God. Your position is not influenced by your actions.**

2. Did Abraham earn it?

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

No one is going to walk up in heaven and say, “You know why I am here? It’s because of me.”

“⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.”

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't work -- because we should -- but we are not saved because we work. We work because we are saved.

We are not saved by good works but we are saved to good works.

“and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Literally it means to put into an account. So God put righteousness into Abrahams account.

Isaiah 64: 6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*,
And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;

3. What did Abraham have to do? He had to believe.

John 6 ²⁸ *Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”* ²⁹ *Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”*

They said, “What are the works?” Jesus said, “There is only one work – you have to believe in him that the father sent.”

- *Abraham was not Jewish and he was not part of Israel. He was a heathen, from a heathen nation.*
- What would you do, if God told you – I am coming to speak to you tomorrow? What would you think God is coming to do?

In the same way God comes to Abraham – in same way, but even better, God comes to us.

They said, “What are the works?” Jesus said, “There is only one work – you have to believe in him that the father sent.”

John 3:17 *for God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world but to save all who believe on him.*

I came today for one reason – I came to you today to Bless you.

Abraham believed God and righteousness was put into his account – In the same way but even better God comes to us.

I did not come to judge you – I came to bless you and if you believe – God takes all of your sins out and puts righteousness in your account - That's the righteousness of Grace