



WHEN IN ROMANS PT. 2: WHY SHOULD I LET YOU INTO HEAVEN?

Most of us know what it feels like to have to prove ourselves. Whether it is a job interview, asking for someone's blessing, trying to earn someone's trust, or explaining why we deserve an opportunity, we naturally start pointing to our record. We talk about what we have done, how hard we have worked, how responsible we are, and why we should be accepted. But when it comes to God, Romans reminds us that we have nothing in ourselves to point to. Our baptism, church attendance, morality, generosity, family background, and good intentions cannot make us right with God. Only Jesus can. Paul uses Abraham as the example. Abraham was not made right with God because of his works, his religious background, or his obedience to the law. Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith. The same is true for us. We are made right with God, not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus has done.

BIG IDEA: Outside of Christ, there is nothing we can point to that makes us acceptable before God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you had to prove yourself? What did you point to in order to show you were trustworthy, qualified, or worthy?
2. If God asked, "Why should I let you into My Kingdom?" what do you think most people would naturally say? Why do we tend to point to our own goodness or religious activity?
3. Read Romans 4:1–5. According to Paul, what made Abraham right with God? Why is it important that Abraham was counted righteous by faith and not by works?
4. "When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned." How is salvation different from a paycheck or something we earn?
5. The sermon described justification as God declaring guilty sinners righteous because of Jesus. How does that courtroom picture help you understand what Jesus has done for us?
6. Read Romans 4:20–25. Abraham was fully convinced that God could do whatever He promised. Where do you find it difficult to trust God's promise instead of your own performance?
7. Read Romans 5:1–2. Paul says we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. What is the difference between trying to make peace with God and already having peace with God?
8. "Your baptism can't save you. Your church attendance can't save you. Your generosity can't save you. Only Jesus." Which of those things are people most tempted to trust in?
9. Read Romans 5:8. What stands out to you about the phrase "while we were still sinners"? How does this verse challenge the idea that we need to clean ourselves up before coming to God?
10. Pastor CJ said, "We don't obey for God's love. We obey from God's love." How does that change the way you think about obedience, spiritual disciplines, and following Jesus?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, ask God to show you what you may be trusting in besides Jesus. It may be your church attendance, your morality, your service, your Bible knowledge, your generosity, your background, or your ability to be better than you used to be.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. **Romans 5:1 NLT**