



²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Now Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness," and he was called God's friend. – **James 2:23**

1. No one is GOOD except GOD alone. (**Mark 10:18b**)

⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
– **Isaiah 64:6** (NIV)

¹⁰ For the one who obeys the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. – **James 2:10**

2. But GOD, because of His MERCY and LOVE, offers to SAVE us.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us,
⁵ even though we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved! – **Ephesians 2:4-5**

3. Our GUILT is IMPUTED to JESUS.

²¹ God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us...
– **2 Corinthians 5:21a**

4. Jesus's RIGHTEOUSNESS is IMPUTED to us.

^{21b} ...so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.
– **2 Corinthians 5:21b**

5. We are JUSTIFIED by FAITH in JESUS.

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... ⁸ God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ ...we have now been justified by his blood... – **Romans 5:1,8,9b** (ESV)

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New English Translation (NET, netbible.org).

DIGGING DEEPER

ROMANS 4:1-12,23-25

- How would our relationship with God be affected if we could boast about our works (v. 2 and v. 4)? Why would that be problematic?
- What kind of faith did Abraham have that was credited as righteousness (v. 5)? How would you describe this faith to someone who is not a Christian?
- According to verse 11, the Old Testament act of circumcision was a "sign" of the "righteousness that [Abraham] had by faith." Did Abraham's justification (being declared righteous) *depend on* his circumcision (v. 10)? In what ways is circumcision similar to water baptism (see **Colossians 2:11-12**)?
- In **Galatians 5:2-6**, Paul is writing to a church that had started to believe that circumcision was necessary for salvation. Paul says that if they accepted that false teaching, then "Christ would be of no advantage to them" (v. 2). What does that mean? What does this tell us about the role of our own works in our salvation? (This is similar to **Romans 4:2,4**.)
- Why do verses 23-24 say that "the statement 'it was credited to him' was... written for our sake?" How does that statement help us?
- In the sermon, we saw that Jesus's righteousness has been imputed to us through faith. How does knowing this affect your life (e.g., the choices you make, the worries you have, your confidence in what happens after death, etc.)?

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