

Romans Part Two: The Bridge from Earth to Heaven – Second Week

How Justification by Faith Works, Pt. 1

Romans 4:1-17

Introduction: In chapter 3, Paul introduced the concept of justification by faith. In chapter four, using the example of Abraham, he explains exactly how justification by faith works. Key idea (4:1-8) – Being placed in a right standing by God, through faith, is available to anyone, anywhere, as a gift of his grace.

1. *HOW IT IS RECEIVED* – God declares people righteous on the basis of their faith in Christ, not their works. *Romans 4:1-8*

- A. Two stories – Paul uses Abraham and David to prove his point in the first eight verses. 4:1
- B. The experience of Abraham – He was declared permanently righteous on account of faith. 4:2-5
- C. The story of David – David experienced the same thing. 4:6-8

2. *WHO CAN RECEIVE IT* – God’s declaration is available to anyone regardless of background. *Romans 4:9-15*

- A. The implied objection – “This is just a Jewish thing. It doesn’t apply to anyone else.” 4:9
- B. Response – Abraham was declared righteous by faith before circumcision and the law. 4:10-15
- C. Result – Justification by faith is something that is available to all people. 4:12, 13

3. *WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RECEIVE IT* – God’s justification by faith produces new life. *Romans 4:16-17*

- A. God produced new life when he created the world. 4:17b
- B. God produced new life when he called Abraham and gave him promises. 4:17a
- C. God’s promise of new life flows from his grace. 4:16