

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

How Justification by Faith Works, Pt. 2

Romans 4:17-25

Introduction: The concept of justification by faith is extremely difficult to grasp, because we humans instinctively seek to work our way into God's good graces. Consequently, Paul expends much effort to explain justification by faith, using Abraham as an example. In the first half of this chapter, we discovered how justification by faith works *for us*. In the 2nd half, he helps us think about how it might work *for others*. These 8 verses help us consider how to share the message.

- 1. HEARING – To be justified by faith a person needs to hear God's good news contained in the gospel. *Romans 4:23-25***
 - A. 1st Question – What is the essence of the gospel, *the good news*? 4:24-25
 - B. 2nd Question – What is the outcome of believing the gospel? 4:23-24
 - C. 3rd Question – How can something that happened 2,000 years ago affect me today?

- 2. BELIEVING – To appreciate how justification by faith works, we need to grasp the role of faith. *Romans 4:19-21***
 - A. Faith *first* realistically embraces the dire situation that we are in. 4:19
 - B. Faith *also* embraces what God has provided. 4:20-21
 - C. Faith *finally* reaps the benefit of imputed righteousness. 4:22

- 3. THE LONG-TERM RESPONSE – The right response to our justification by faith is to influence others. *Romans 4:17-18***
 - A. God gave Abraham a promise that his faith would influence many nations. 4:17a, 18b
 - B. God has given us a promise that our faith will influence many nations. Matt. 28:18-20