

Romans

**The Righteousness of God
proven through Messiah,
King Jesus**

Romans

- *Unique set of churches – Jews joining Gentiles*
- *God is on trial – Is God Righteous?*
 - *How can we trust God when the world is in shambles?*
 - *How can we rely on God if He has set Israel aside?*
- *Answer = Jesus PROVES God is righteous*

**The Gospel culminating in Jesus is the power of God to save everyone, & Jesus' faith proves God has come thru on His promises such that we can now exercise faith in Him
(from Faith to faith)**

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It is humanity that is on trial, not God:

- *Rom. 1:18-32 = live autonomously apart from God*
- *Rom. 2:1-16 = claim morality thru obedience but fail miserably AND are judgmental*
- *Rom. 2:17-29 = Israel specifically has failed in their Divine calling & rely on outside identification while the inside remains untouched*
- *Rom. 3:1-20 = Israel beyond their sin & judging of others failed in their Divine calling as messengers of the explanation of Torah – not ahead of the game*

Result = ALL of us are without excuse before God

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Romans 3:21: We are acquitted of our guilt (justified) by faith and not by Works of Torah membership

- *We cannot boast because it is a pure gift from the Judge*
 - *Guarantees equal access to God...i.e. both Jew & Gentile i.e. it leveled the playing field – God is impartial, everyone is guilty before Him, everyone is made clean by faith responding to Jesus*
 - *There aren't two communities trying to learn to live together – there's ONE*
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“This was to demonstrate His (The Father’s) righteousness”

- God has been true to His promises by saving the world thru an Israelite*
 - He has dealt properly with sin*
 - He has come to the rescue of the helpless*
 - And has done it all with impartiality between Jew & Gentile*
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And chapter 4 is not just a “proof from scripture”:

- *It is rather a FULL BLOWN explanation of what the actual promise God made with Abraham was...the original contact if you will*
 - *And that God ALWAYS planned on including Gentiles*
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Outline of chapter 4:

- *Abraham HIMSELF had nothing to boast about because he (the original party to the contract) was acquitted by faith – vs. 1-8*
 - *This then qualified Abraham to be the spiritual father to ALL – vs. 9-17*
 - *Expands on the nature of Abraham's faith – vs. 18-22*
 - *Final Summation – vs. 23-25*
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And the argument Paul's Jewish brethren have here is twofold:

1. Abraham is viewed by the Jews as the 1st ancestor of God's people

2. And thus the defining person of what covenant membership with God means – to them by connection to God's Torah

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Thus what Paul must prove to these believers in Rome who know Jewish history is:

- *That Abraham joined this covenant family of God thru FAITH...not by an ethnic seal & connection to Torah – These are incredible privileges, but they are about Calling, not STANDING*
 - *That this then shows that Abraham's true intended family includes Gentiles too*
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What is being confused is Israel's **ROLE** in redemptive history vs. Israel's **MEMBERSHIP** in God's covenant family (chapter 9-11)

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Chapter 4 Outline:

I. Abraham HIMSELF had nothing to boast about because he (the original party to the contract) was acquitted by faith— vs. 1-8

Romans 4:1 “What then shall we say? Have we found Abraham to be our forefather according to the flesh?”

Question - Whether covenant membership with God means you have to be from the Physical family of Abraham?

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- Romans 4:2

What Paul is speaking of are:

1. Biblical rules that...

2. Defined both Jews & Proselytes above pagans

i.e. Because we have Torah we are in better standing with God than you

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a) In their mind ethnic Jews possess & do Torah

b) If Abraham is the father of this ethnic family only

c) Then this family is DEFINED BY possessing & doing Torah

d) Thus any Gentiles wanting to belong to this family of God MUST become proselytes and follow Torah

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- Romans 4:3

What REALLY DEFINES membership in God's covenant family?



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“reckoned” = Bookkeeping - placing ticks in a column and adding them up – thus here the righteousness of Jesus swaps places with our sin

Abraham

Sin



Jesus

Righteousness



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Righteousness is being directly connected to covenant:

1. Abraham gives God the benefit of the doubt & trusts Him
2. God responds by declaring him righteous before Him now
3. Result = they are connected by a deep and everlasting covenant

When Abraham showed faith in God it was a sure sign that he was in partnership with God

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- Romans 4:4-5

a)When we “work” an employer pays us wages “not as a gift” but rather out of obligation (4)

b)God is gracious & always gives freely without constraint - He can never be “obligated” to any person (He never acts as employer)

c)Therefore God cannot “credit” human beings anything on the basis of their “works” (vs. 5)

People cannot base their relationship with God based upon ACTIONS because God is fundamentally gracious and freely gives...it would cut against His complete make-up

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The progression of thought going back to chapter 1:

a) Paul has already proven in chapters 1-2 we are ALL GUILTY before this Judge

b) We are acquitted of our guilt before God the Father thru the payment of Jesus' blood

c) It is not earned as that would go against God's gracious giving nature

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And Abraham made several things clear:

a) You join God's family not by ethnicity but by faith

b) You are then acquitted of your guilt & joined as a member of God's covenant family because Jesus paid your debt...and it was a GIFT

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Romans 4:6-8 – Paul Calls his 2nd witness = David

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Point = the people that are blessed are NOT the ones that earn something...they are the ones that RECEIVE something

a) They are gifted forgiveness

b) And God doesn't hold their continuing sin against them
