

## Romans 4:1-3

Romans 3:21 to 5:11 Theme is Justification

Justification is illustrated in the entire chapter 4

Romans 4:1-8 Justification by faith not works

Romans 4:1-5 Illustrated by Abraham

# Abraham's Discovery 1-3

*1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather hath found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not toward God. 3 For what saith the scripture? And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness.*

### Forefather:

- Like George Washington
- Physical relationship
- No spiritual overtones or connections
- According to the flesh
- Flesh is equal with works

**Question: What has Abraham , our fleshly forefather found?**

1. Paul puts himself in the company of his Jewish brethren
2. As a Jew, pointing to the father of his race, what was to be discovered by observing him?

This word for discover -  
heuriskō -eureka or

**WOW**

**OBSERVATIONS:**

1. God made promises to Abram Gen 12:1
2. God was going to fulfil His promises to Abram.
3. God was going to fulfil His promises whether Abram believes or not
4. God did not promise to reckon Abram righteous if he believed.
5. Abraham was considered by the Jews as righteous because of his works (sacrifice of his son) John 8:39

## Why does Paul select Abraham as an example?

1. Promises resident in him
2. Tremendous qualifications
3. He was not exempt
4. He still had to be justified

**Abraham is the example of how to have a relationship with God**

## What did Abraham discover?

The verb “has found” **infinitive perfect tense** (past completed action that extends to the present) Abraham made a discovery once with results extending to today and forever.

### Negative: Verse 2

1. He found his own deficiency
2. He found that he had no grounds to boast before God
3. He found God compares men with Himself
4. He found a sinner is anyone less righteous than God

### Positive: Verse 3

1. He found God's total sufficiency and supply
2. He found righteousness is through faith alone

# Negative

**Abraham made discoveries  
then that have effects on us today**

**As Abraham discovers, we  
discover by the scriptures**

**Judaism believed that Abraham was justified by his works Gen. 22**

**Jews believed they were God's sons through Abraham. John 8:39**

**Jews declared Abraham is our father so therefore God is our Father**

**Abraham discovered that when it came to standing before God, he had none.**

**Though his accomplishments were great, they were not up to God's standard for  
righteousness**

**He found comparing men with men was not the criteria**

**He found all men and himself to be ungodly**

**To discover that the greatest saints have no other standing than the weakest saints, is a lesson that is difficult for all of us! So now for the Jew to find that great Abraham has nothing in the flesh, but must be justified by simple faith, like any sinner, is a great shock.**

**W. R. Newell**

**Alla:** in verse 2 the word for '**but**' is a word of very strong contrast

With all his qualifications Abraham still had to be justified before God

Positive

1. Abraham discovered God's supply and sufficiency
2. Paul appeals only to Scripture
3. There is a way of righteousness before God
4. He found righteousness is by grace through faith alone

# Faith

## What is Faith?

*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.*

- 1. Assurance (hypostasis) confidence from a compound of (hupo) and (histemi); a setting under (support), i.e. concrete essence, or abstract assurance confidence, confident, person, substance.*
- 2. Conviction (elenchos) evidence, proof*

**Absolute confidence in the evidence of the things of God**

## Does God look at faith and say

**“I will look at faith and I will count it as righteous?”**

The word eis means the leading to, unto, or the resulting in

**It was reckoned to him as leading to righteousness**

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto (eis) salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Romans 3:22** even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto(eis) all them that believe; for there is no distinction;

**Romans 10:10** for with the heart man believes unto (eis) righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto (eis) salvation.

The word does not say faith is righteous

The Word states that faith leads to or  
is the condition of  
Righteousness



Where would you say then, lies the value of faith?

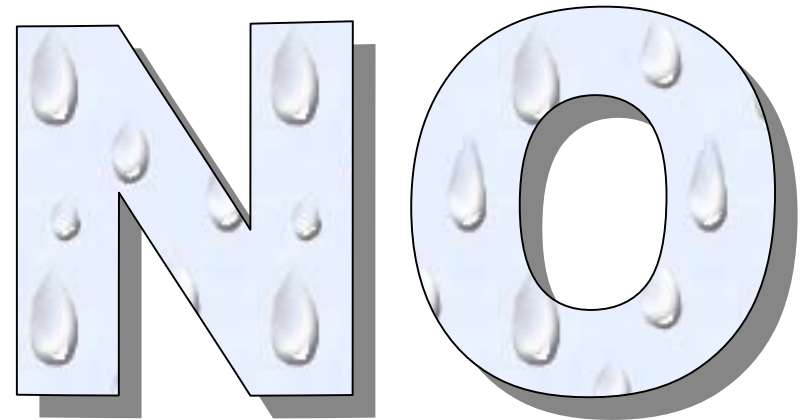
1 Is it in the act of believing?

2 Is it in what is believed?

3 Is it in the One who is behind the facts?

The work is done by God and the value is in the work.  
My believing and having confidence in the evidence  
of the things of God adds nothing to the work.

*Is Faith part of the  
price?*



# **Faith is the only act a man can do that is:**

- . not a work,**
- . nor can he take credit for,**
- . or can he incur a debt by doing**

**There was no honor, no “merit,” in Abraham’s believing the faithful God, who cannot lie. The honor was God’s. When Abraham believed God, he did the one thing that a man can do without doing anything!**

**W. R. Newell**

**Therefore believing is a non meritorious act on my part.**

*“and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness.”*

**When Abraham believed, what is the word used to show what God did when Abraham honored Him by believing His promises?**

**RECKONED: elogisthē. Root word logizomai**

**To count, To take an inventory, To conclude, to lay to the charge of another, to treat them accordingly**

If a man is broke and someone gives him monies,  
his creditors count him as rich

By believing God, Abraham was simply extending  
credence to One who cannot lie!

Therefore, without being himself righteousness, his  
faith is reckoned as righteousness.

**What is the ground upon which such reckoning is based?**

**The ground of such reckoning is the work of Christ on the cross only.**

**How can God give unmerited grace to those who deserve nothing but condemnation?**

**Based upon the completed and adequate work of Christ**

*Romans 3:24 being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in his blood,*

**What must you be, to be a candidate for God's reckoning you righteous?**

**UNGODLY**

Romans 5:6 For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly

**In light of Abraham believing God & it being reckoned unto him for righteousness which of the following would **NOT** be considered salvation?**

**Making a commitment to Christ**

**Receiving Jesus into your heart**

**Being baptized**

**Confession of your sins**

**Making Jesus Lord of your life**

**WHY?**

1. All require you to contribute or do something
2. You could boast
3. Your Salvation, to some degree, will depend on you
4. You could say God is in debt to you