



Romans 4:4-8

Faith Not Works

- *Rom 4:4 – NKJV “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted (reckoned) as grace but as debt.”*
 - **Think of how this relates to your earthly job vs the wages God has paid!**
 - ‘entitlement’ vs ‘favor’
 - *Rom 11:6 “And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it be by works, then it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.”*
 - Consider the parable of the laborers and their reward – *Matt 20:1-16*



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- *Rom 4:5 – NKJV “But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,”*
 - ‘The whole Pauline gospel could be summed up in this one word (*phrase*) - **God who justifies the ungodly**’ - Denney.
 - Define ‘*ungodly*’
 - destitute of reverential awe towards God, condemning God, impious
 - are there a matter of degrees here?
 - » What about *Rom 1:18,19, 24, 25; 3:10-12?*
 - » Read Newell *Romans: Verse by Verse* p.134
 - » Read Stanford, *None but the Hungry Heart*, April 30
 - *Rom 5:6-8 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely will one die for a righteous man, yet perhaps for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commends His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*



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- Define *‘does not work’*
- Faith – ‘merely the instrument that puts us in possession of the blessing gratuitously bestowed’ – Jamieson, Fausset, Brown
- *John 6:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, “This is the work of God: that ye believe in Him whom He hath sent.”*

– **What was Abraham’s faith based on?**

- Abraham believed in the promises which embraced Christ
 - *Gen 12:3, 15:5; as we believe in Christ Himself*
 - *Gal 3:8 “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached beforehand the Gospel unto Abraham, saying, “In thee shall all nations be blessed.”*



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- *Rom 4:6 – Webster “Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man to whom God imputeth righteousness without works,”*
 - David recognized the same truth as Abraham!
 - **Blessedness (in the form of congratulation) is a result of our Godly position of imputed righteousness**
 - *man* – anthropos – applies to men and women
 - *Eph 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ,...”*
 - *Impute* = reckon, account, consider, establish



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- *II Cor 5:21* “For He hath made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”
- And again, it is without our input (works)
 - *II Tim 1:9* “who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but in accordance with His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”
- *Rom 4:7,8 - ASV [saying], Blessed are they whose iniquities (lawless deeds) are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom, the Lord will not reckon sin.”*
 - **Amplified** “Blessed and happy and to be envied are those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered up and completely buried. Blessed and happy and to be envied is the person of whose sin the Lord will take no account nor reckon it against him.”



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- Direct quote of *Psalms 32:1,2*
- Both *are forgiven* and *are covered* - aorist passive indicative
 - Only use in NT of *are covered*
 - What does *covered* mean?
 - » not seen, not relevant, pardoned, forgiven
 - » *Psalms 103:12* “ *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.* ”
 - anticipating *Heb 9:26*



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- » *Heb 9:26 – NASB “Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*
- *will not impute* – aorist middle deponent (typically active) subjunctive (may or may not occur)
 - **Now or at judgment!** – do we walk with that confidence?
 - *II Cor 5:19 “to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them,”*
 - *1 Pet 2:24 “who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.”*
 - Agree or disagree: **The world hates grace**
 - If you agree, why?