

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ROMANS 4****Romans 4**

Romans four is a watershed chapter in the New Testament. The key illustration and explanation of Salvation by faith/trust alone is clearly delineated here. This was the heart cry of the reformation more than a hundred years ago. Paul has concluded that everyone is a sinner by being part of Adam's family and then as soon as possible by our choices. We make those choices as a way of life because the heart is unregenerate before God.

Paul takes Abraham as an example because he is the father of faith and the faithful. He establishes that Abraham was not declared righteous by his works because he was a sinner, as all are of Adam's race. If indeed Abraham could have been declared righteous by his works, he would have boasted as all men would.

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Romans 4:3)

The primary concept that Paul will detail in this chapter and the ones that follow is the concept of **Justification**. The Greek word that is translated "Justification" in our English Bibles is "dikaioō." This is a legal term that means to "Declare righteous" or "Acquit" the accused. No one can stand before the Judgment Bar of Almighty God, no one. The Law of God has been broken, and the keeping of the law cannot take away the wrong that is done and continues to be done. The law of God shows us our sin. It can never take it away. God, who is rich in

mercy and lovingkindness, provided a way that sinful man may be forgiven. The God of the universe sent His one-of-a-kind Son to live a perfect life, He so lived a perfect and sinless life that no one, friend or foe, could bring anything to His charge. This perfect one, virgin born, sinless, died as a substitute to pay the sin debt of all who will come to Him in repentance and trust in His substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection. Remember what the Apostle said in Romans 1:1-4,

"Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." (Emphasis mine)

Justification is an act of God whereby He declares righteous a guilty sinner because of the perfect sacrifice of another on their behalf. Justification is not only the forgiveness of sins past and present, but also future. Forgiveness is not the end, but God declares us to be righteous, and the righteousness of Jesus that He earned by living in perfect obedience to the Father and fulfilling the righteous law of God is credited to the sinner's account. When God looks at your account and mine, He sees His own perfect Son's obedience/righteousness. The sin account is settled.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank You, Father, for forgiving my sin because of Jesus' substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection on my behalf and accounting to me the righteousness of the Lord Jesus. Amen