



ROMANS 4-6

■ WEEK 2 ■

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:23

The Gospel Reveals God's Righteousness - Christ has become the living revelation of God's righteousness so that everyone who believes—Jews and Gentiles—can be made right and brought into God's family.

WEEK 2, DAY 1
■ **MONDAY** ■
ROMANS 4:1-12

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE

In these verses, we see that God counted or credited Abraham with righteousness.

To credit something is to confer a status that was not there before. Faith counted as righteousness. It means that God treated Abraham as though he was living a righteous life. His faith was not righteousness; but God counted it as if it were. As Paul explains in verse 4, our righteousness is an either-or: either merited by our works, or credited without regard for them. A Christian is one who stops working to be saved, not one who stops working! It is the removing of one's hopes and trust from other things to place them on God as Savior. Verse 5 concludes by saying that if we stop trusting in ourselves as justifiers and start trusting God as justifier, the result is credited righteousness. It is believing God when he promises a way of salvation by grace. You can have lots and lots of strong faith that God exists, that he is loving, that he is holy. You can believe that the Bible is God's holy word. You can show great reverence for God. Yet all the while, you can be seeking to be your own savior and justifier by trusting in your own performance in religion, in moral character, in vocation, in parenting, etc.

Timothy Keller, *Romans 1-7 for You*

Our salvation is a gift from the Lord, a testament to His boundless grace. We can trust that in His great mercy, God credits our account with what we could never earn and definitely don't deserve. We are to admit we are sinners in need of a Savior and put our trust in the God who forgives sinners. Abraham and David were both faithful followers of the Lord, but both men failed to obey the Lord many times. Paul is aiming to prove by mentioning these two men that God credits righteousness to those who have faith in Him, not because of anything they have accomplished on their own. Abraham was counted righteous before his circumcision. Abraham's obedience flowed out of a heart responding to the free gift of grace and mercy received from God. Our obedience should be the same.

Refer to the Glossary of Terms on page 4 for more on circumcision.



REFLECTION

If someone asked you, "Why should you be admitted into heaven?" What would you say? What does your answer reveal about what you are trusting to save you? Are you relying on your good works, or are you relying on the Lord to be your Savior? This is the good news of the gospel: you can't save yourself, and God knew this; it's why He sent Jesus.

WEEK 2, DAY 2
■ **TUESDAY** ■
ROMANS 4:13-25

PROMISE THROUGH FAITH

Building on what we read yesterday, this fourth chapter of Romans tells us how to live out our relationship to obeying the law and trusting fully in the finished work of Jesus on the cross for our salvation. Paul says that this example of Abraham being counted as righteous is also for our benefit. We are assured that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in Him, the one who raised Jesus, our Lord, from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. (vs. 24-25). Abraham's example of faith can impact us even today; here's what we see about his faith in these passages:

- He believed in "the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing" (vs. 17)
- He never gave up hope that God would fulfill His promises. (vs. 18)
- He aimed to obey the law, but when He came up short, his faith in the Lord never wavered. It, in fact, grew stronger, which brought glory to God. (vs. 20)
- He was convinced the Lord was faithful, even when he couldn't see the evidence. (vs. 21)



REFLECTION

What stood out to you in Paul's words regarding Abraham's faith in today's reading?

Reflect today on this verse, Romans 4:21, "He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises." Spend time processing various things in your life (finances, children, job, relationships, current events). Ask yourself if you are fully convinced that God will do what He promises in each area. Spend some time in prayer asking the Lord to remind you of His promises so that you can grow in faith daily.

WEEK 2, DAY 3
■ WEDNESDAY ■
ROMANS 5:1-11

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH BRINGS PEACE

How does our **justification** through faith impact our daily lives? Romans Chapter 5 does a great job of explaining that for us. Let's start with vs. 2 that says because of our faith in Jesus, we now stand in a place of undeserved privilege and confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing in God's glory. The CSB translation says it this way: "that we now have access through Him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God." Those are powerful words. Through faith, we are given access to things that we don't deserve; take a minute to let that sink in.

This should help us wrestle with the next few verses, which are harder to swallow. We are also to "boast" or, in some translations, "rejoice" in our sufferings, afflictions, problems, and trials due to what God desires to produce in us through them: things like endurance, character, and hope. But don't miss what is offered amidst all this: PEACE WITH GOD.

Peace with God is astounding. We're all born as God's enemy--haters, rebels, and traitors. But God being rich in mercy, ended the war, made peace, reconciled us, brought us close, and poured His love into our hearts. We didn't earn these things, deserve them, or accomplish them. If God has made peace with you through the blood of Jesus, then you're eternally safe in the arms of your Father. We can rest assured that our future salvation is guaranteed. As we wait for that glorious day, let's rejoice in the peace He's made, the access He's given, the endurance He cultivates, the hope He anchors, and the love He pours out.

Courtney Doctor - *In View of God's Mercies*

Refer to the Glossary of Terms on page 4 for more on justification by faith.



REFLECTION

Reflect today on what it means to you that you have peace with God through faith. How does that help you to face and endure hard times and trials in your life?

WEEK 2, DAY 4
■ THURSDAY ■
ROMANS 5:12-21

LIFE IN ADAM VS. LIFE IN CHRIST

In today's passages, Paul takes us back to where sin entered the world in Genesis and where our redemption from sin entered through Jesus. The contrast is stark and profound. The curse of death came as sin entered the story in Genesis. In a way, Adam serves as a representation of all of humanity under the curse of sin. Then Jesus comes as a "second Adam" in human form, a beacon of hope, with the purpose of living a perfectly righteous life to redeem those sins and break the curse of death that sin has over our lives. Adam's story is one of sin and death, while Jesus' story is one of righteous living and eternal life. But because of Jesus, Adam's story is redeemed and restored back to a right relationship with God and a path to eternal life. There is a distinction in this passage that's important for us to understand. Paul makes it very clear in these passages that we should realize this is a "free gift" offered to us.

While Adam was told he would enjoy blessing if he obeyed God, and yet chose to disobey, the second Adam knew he would face agony and death if he obeyed—and yet he resolutely walked in obedience to his Father. When we read of Jesus' continual loving obedience in the Gospels, it is a matter of life and death to us; because that obedience is our obedience, if we are in Christ instead of Adam.

Timothy Keller - *Romans 1-7 For You*

So, are we living in Christ? We must acknowledge that we can fall very quickly into a trap of living in the extremes rather than living in the reality of the gospel of Jesus. Living in Christ means:

- faithful obedience wrapped in His grace
- to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God, setting out to be His hands and feet to the world
- enjoying the gifts He has given while continuing to pursue wisdom and righteousness
- to speak and live out the Truth in word and deed as we love others like Jesus

This is how we live in light of the free gift of His righteousness: We receive the gift, and then we live in it!



REFLECTION

Reflect today on how you allow righteousness and grace to co-exist in your heart. Ask God to help you see what sin you might need to confess and repent to live more fully in Christ and what He has for you.

WEEK 2, DAY 5
■ **FRIDAY** ■
ROMANS 6:1-14

DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE IN CHRIST

As discussed yesterday, we are to live in Christ, which requires us to be crucified with Him. What does this mean? It means that our body is no longer to be ruled by sin; we have died to sin and are raised to new life in Christ. We are **NO LONGER** a slave to sin. This does not mean that we will no longer be tempted by sin or have the desire to sin or that we will never give in to the power of sin. Being dead to our sin means that sin no longer has to be our master or rule over us; we now have the power of Christ reigning in us to fight back against the desires of our flesh and be victorious over it.

In fact, these verses encourage us to offer our whole self as a weapon or instrument for righteousness. This implies that we are actively fighting our sinful desires in order to follow Jesus, and yet we often forget this is something we should fight daily. We sometimes lull ourselves into believing that because God's grace covers our sins through Jesus that we don't need to take our sins seriously. But Paul's words here convey something different. Grace doesn't mean that we are free to sin; grace means we are free from being a slave to sin. If we are in Christ, we can now walk in freedom and newness of life; our lives can look different. Before Christ, we had no power to defeat sin in our lives. After Christ, we have the power to fight back against it every single day, but in Christ, we also now have grace for the days that we fall back into slavery to sin. The freedom given through Christ now allows us to walk fully alive in Christ instead of being dead in our sins.

So, the question is: Do you want to be a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness? We'll delve into this further tomorrow...



REFLECTION

Do you believe you have power over your sin in Christ? If you're feeling powerless over your sin today, I encourage you to ask God to help you believe the truths in this passage of scripture. Spend some time meditating on the idea of being crucified with Christ and what that means to you.

WEEK 2, DAY 6
■ SATURDAY ■
ROMANS 6:15-23

SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

When a non-Christian sins, they are acting in accord with their identity, with who they are. Why wouldn't they sin? But when someone is united to Christ, everything changes, because who they are changes. There is a new "me." Offering ourselves "to righteousness [leads] to holiness" (v 19). As we act according to the truth, our character and will are shaped into habits of holiness and righteousness. After all, sin is a master who always pays, on time and in full. The wages he pays "is death" (v 23). Sin pays out what we deserve for our work for him. On the other hand, slavery to God leads to "eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Paul's meaning here is not that, just as sinful works bring death, righteous works merit life. No, sin gives what we deserve, but eternal life is only and always "the gift of God." Serving him does not win us salvation—however good our service, we can only ever say: "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty" (Luke 17:10). But those who know they have received the wonderful "gift of God ... eternal life" have a new Master, a Master who offers the fulfillment of working for him.

Timothy Keller, *Romans 1-7 For You*



REFLECTION

We are all slaves to something. How will remembering this help you next time sin tempts you? How would you use this passage to answer someone who says to you: I don't like Christianity because it restricts my freedom? How would you use this passage to answer someone asking why you would bother to obey God if he already accepts you?

WEEK 2, DAY 7
■ SUNDAY ■

REST & REFLECTION DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

Take notes on this week's sermon on page 58.



REFLECTION NOTES & QUESTIONS

This week, we looked at Romans 4-6. As we wrap up this week's study, go back and read Romans 6. Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?