

OUR GREAT SALVATION
Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org
December 3, 2017

Romans 4:1-8

1. In Hebrews 2:3 the writer asked, “How will we escape (God’s discipline) if we neglect (fail to take seriously) so great a salvation?”
2. Most followers of Jesus Christ understand that our salvation is a process, we are saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved.
3. Another way of saying the same thing is that God saves us, sanctifies us, and eventually glorifies us.
4. Over the next weeks we will cover all aspect of the salvation process.
5. The Apostle Paul was a gospel preacher.

a. Rom 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

b. Paul’s gospel and God’s gospel were one and the same. Rom 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to establish you **according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

c. That is not always the case. Gal 1:6-9

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for **a different gospel**; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

6. There is a lot of confusion related to how a person is saved (justified, declared righteous), but the message of the Bible is straight forward and not confusing.

I. We are justified when we believe God’s promises related to our Savior.

A. Paul pointed out that Abraham was not justified by his works; rather he was justified by believing God’s promises.

B. Now the specific promise Paul is referencing is found in Genesis 22:18.

“In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”

C. Paul expounded on this promise in Galatians 3:15-18

Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to

it. **16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.** 17 What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

D. With these truths in mind look at Romans 4:5.

"But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness."

NOTE: We receive the gift of righteousness or justification from God when we believe that Jesus Christ, who, by His suffering and shed blood, atoned for our sins and thereby appeased the wrath of God and satisfied the justice of God.

E. Before we leave this section we need to fully understand a few important truths.

1. No one is justified by their works.

2. The only people who are candidates for justification are the ungodly.

NOTE: The word ungodly speaks of those who come to see themselves as impious, wicked, destitute of any redeeming qualities whatever, and lacking in reverential awe towards God.

NOTE: Paul previously established in Romans 1:18 through 3:18 that before God all people are ungodly; a fact that most people refuse to accept or admit to.

3. However, the moment a person acknowledges that he is ungodly (repents towards God), and believes on Jesus Christ who, through His atoning sacrifice, justifies the ungodly, that person's faith is credited by God as righteousness.

F. Note Paul's exchange with the Philippian jailor. Acts 16:25-33

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" 29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" 31 They said, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.**" 32 **And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.** 33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

II. Our salvation is sure because it is based on God's promises and not on our ability. **16-17**

A. There would be no assurance of salvation if it was based on our ability to do.

B. Some teach that we are saved by grace through faith, but that we maintain our relationship with God through our performance.

C. Notice the clear declarations made in these two verses.

1. For this reason it is by faith.
2. In order that it may be in accordance with grace (God's activity towards us rather than our activity for God).
3. So that the promise will be guaranteed to all.

D. Paul declared that Abraham had the Gospel preached to him and that he believed it. Gal 3:6-9

Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 **The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."** 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

APPLICATION

1. In Romans 4:20-25 we read this about Abraham.

In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; **20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.** 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

2. There is much more to be said, but for now ask yourself, "What am I basing my acceptance before God on?"

3. Base it simply on what the Bible says, "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness."

4. Our righteousness before God is bestowed as a gift. Rom 5:15-17

But **the free gift** is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 **The gift** is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand **the free gift** arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.