

Counted Righteous 2022-01-16

Romans 4:1-3

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

1.8 people out of 7.8 Billion people on the earth – almost 25% - that group represents Muslims. Muslims...5 times per day....face Mecca to pray. Islam/Mecca/black stone Satan designs religions that promise to bring forgive and heaven through certain rituals/works.

- nobody is saved by some noble, moral effort/deeds or religious activity.
 - Salvation is only through faith alone as God counts Jesus' righteousness as ours.

• Abraham was the model of justification by faith. Romans 3:27-28, 4:1-5
Jews thought Abraham illustrated works as way to salvation. He obeyed God and gained righteousness.

- salvation does not come through keeping the Law...the Law was given 430 years after Abraham was declared righteous by God.
 - If in existence not save. Law only condemns and can't make us righteous.

Abraham's righteousness is due to God's grace, not his Law-keeping/good works.

- grace without regard to merit/demerit goes against our flesh...we feel we need to do something for salvation.
 - receiving wages for work is opposite to receiving gift by faith.
 - boast get pay for works/performance but can't when given a gift.

Nothing we do including religious activity contributes to salvation. Romans 3:29-30, 4:9-12

- Abraham declared righteous 14 years before circumcision circumcision had no role in his salvation.
 - *Sign*.....not the real thing, but points to it.
 - *Seal*....authenticates or attests to reality of something.....notary's seal.

Circumcision is the visible outward sign of inward spiritual reality.....belonged to God.

Bel bap!

- If don't have reality, ritual is worthless...including baptism, communion, church, etc.
 - Great difference between something required for salvation and something flows from/confirms accepted with God. i.e. believers baptism

God saved Abraham and all Christians through transaction called imputation on the basis of Jesus' work and in response to faith. Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24

- Impute= reckon, consider, take into account, credit (financial).

Imputation is two-fold:

1. Father imputes Jesus' righteousness to unrighteous men.....here illustrated by Abraham
 - Can't attain the righteousness law demands so must come from another source.
2. our sins imputed to Jesus so He is punished in our place...David Romans 3:25, 4:6-8
 - God not impute David's sin to him, though he deserved to die.

Imputation enables God to deal with men in way that saves and demonstrates His just/righteousness.

- With God's holy anger satisfied (propitiation) in Jesus Christ, God now can count Christian as credited with Jesus' righteousness and not counted as sinful because of own sins.
 - Regarding his salvation, Abraham was not made righteous but regarded/treated as righteous by God, since by faith we in Jesus ChristGod can now gracious/kind toward us.

Abraham is a prototype of salvation to unworthy, ungodly, undeserving sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. 2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 3:9

- Salvation not through noble, moral effort/deeds or religious activities but God counting Jesus' righteousness as ours through faith alone instant believe in Him.
 - Ultimately ground of our assurance not in what God doing in us in sanctification but in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.