

# Romans

## How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 4

Romans 4:1-25

Justification by Faith

1. Read Genesis 12:1-4. What was the evidence of Abraham's faith (Gen. 12:4)? Read Genesis 13:14-17 and 15:1-6. (Genesis 15:6 provides the first reference to faith in the Bible.) In Romans 4:3, Paul reminds us that the Scripture states, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." What does this statement mean to you?
2. Had the law been given to Israel at this point in Genesis 15:6? Did Israel even exist at this point? Is it significant that the law had not been given yet?
3. Abraham had kept no law, performed no apparent good deeds, and participated in no religious ritual. What is the only thing that he did that God credited to him as righteousness? What does this say about all of our religious ceremony and good works? What is the one thing that we need to do?
4. If we were required to earn our way into heaven, eternal life would be credited to us by God as either a gift or an obligation. Which according to Romans 4:4? Explain?
5. Does God justify the "wicked" or the "righteous" according to verse 5? Who are the wicked and who are the righteous? (Hint: see Romans 3:10; Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 9:9-13.) Read Isaiah 64:6. What do you think the Prophet Isaiah had in mind when he stated, "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags?" What problem (sin) kept the Pharisees from understanding the gospel? See Matthew 13:13-15; 23:5-12, 25-28; and, Acts 28:26-27.
6. According to David what are the blessings that accrue to the "wicked" to whom God credits righteousness apart from works (vv. 6-8)? Also, see Psalm 103:12 and Isaiah 43:25. Do you see why the gospel is "good news?"

7. Read verse 9. Who are the “circumcised” and who are the “uncircumcised?” Abraham was circumcised after God had credited him with righteousness. Why is this so important? What did the Jews point to as their sign of being included in God’s family? See Genesis 17:10-12; Romans 2:28. What do we as “church goers” similarly point to as our “sign” of being part of God’s family? (Hint: it has to do with water.)
8. Abraham is the “physical father” of all Jews racially, and the “spiritual father” of all believing Jews and Gentiles. Do you see this in vv. 11-12? See Romans 9:8.
9. What promise did God give to Abraham that implied that he would be “heir of the world?” Read Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18-21; 18:18; 22:17-18. Look for four aspects of this promise. Also, the word, “offspring,” in Romans 4:13 is actually singular. The KJV translates this verse, “For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his *seed* through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” What is the significance of this being singular? See Galatians 3:15-25; and Matthew 1:1-17.
10. Abraham looked forward to the fulfillment of God’s promise and believed. We look backward to the fulfillment of God’s promise and believe. Who was the fulfillment of God’s promise? See Galatians 3:6-14. What is our relationship to Abraham (Romans 4:16-17)?
11. (Challenge) Why does the law bring wrath? (v. 15) Why is there no transgression where there is no law? Does this mean that there is no sin without the law? (See I Corinthians 15:56; Romans 5:13, 20-21; 7:7-9; and Galatians 3:15-25.)
12. Verse 16 states “the promise comes by faith.” What is this promise for us today? See John 3:16 and Romans 10:9-10.
13. Verse 16 also states “that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed?” How can we know that this promise comes with a guarantee? See Ephesians 1:13-

14. (Hint: A sign points to something whereas a seal guarantees it.) What event in the New Testament guarantees that the promise is trustworthy? See I Corinthians 15:1-8.

14. In Romans 4:18-21, Paul describes Abraham's great faith. Read about Abraham's faith in Hebrews 11:8-19. Based on Hebrews 11:1, define the word, "faith." How have you demonstrated faith in God's promise found in Romans 10:9-10?
15. Justification is by faith alone. What does this term, "justification," mean to you? (Use Webster if necessary.) The phrase "credited to him as righteousness" applies both to Abraham and to whom according to verses 23-24?
16. What is the main point that you have learned from this chapter? How does it apply to your life?