

## **Lesson 4: Romans 3:21- 4:25: GOD RIGHTEOUSLY FORGIVES ALL THROUGH FAITH**

### **I. Introduction**

Romans 3:21-4:25 underscores the essential doctrine of God's righteous forgiveness, which is available to all through faith. Paul articulates the pivotal role of faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection as the cornerstone of salvation. He clarifies that salvation is granted through the grace of Jesus and not through human works, thereby democratizing access to divine forgiveness across all demographics, regardless of race, gender, or social status. This foundational doctrine highlights the significance of faith and affirms the inclusive nature of God's grace.

Paul emphasizes that righteousness is a gift from God, not something we can earn. All humans are sinful and fall short of God's perfect standards making us guilty before Him. No one can claim to be righteous on their own. This raises a crucial question: how can sinful people satisfy God's anger against sin? The answer is that we cannot but God has provided the way for us through the death of Jesus on the cross. Though we all have "sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), we can be "justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ.

In Romans 4, Paul raises an important question about the relationship between faith and the Law. He highlighted that the concept of being justified through faith alone does not make God's actions in the Old Testament meaningless. In the debate among Jewish leaders, some claim that people must follow the law to be justified before God. However, Paul argues that faith alone makes a person right in God's eyes. To support his point Paul turns to the example of Abraham. He shows that Abraham was justified by his faith and not by his actions or adherence to the law. This example emphasizes that true justification comes from believing in God rather than human efforts or achievements.

This section emphasizes that *only* faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross will save us.

### **II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Romans 3:21- 4: 25.**

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

### **III. Think Through the Following Questions:**

1. Romans 3: 23-25 emphasizes that believing in the finished work of Christ Jesus on the cross counts as righteousness. How does this idea challenge or reinforce the idea that we can earn our salvation through personal effort? How does this help us understand that salvation is a gift from God?
2. In verse 29, Paul writes, "Do we overthrow the law by this faith? Why did Paul ask the question? Should we uphold the law since we are under grace?"
3. In Romans 4:3, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." How can we be righteous before God?
4. Paul writes about the faith of Abraham. What is it that Paul wants us to know about faith?
5. Why was Abraham called the Father of Faith? What can we learn from Abraham's faith? How can we apply it to our lives?
6. How do faith and the Law work together in the broader story of salvation?
7. In v.21, Paul writes that Abraham was "fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised." How can we emulate Abraham's trust in God?

### **IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?**

### **V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?**