

Mount Calvary Baptist Church
The Imputed Righteousness of Jesus Christ
Romans 4:1-8

Main Point

Our righteousness is imputed to us as a free gift from God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction

Have you ever received a gift that was difficult to accept because it was so valuable? Why did you feel unworthy of this gift?

Why do you think that accepting salvation by grace instead of works is so difficult?

Understanding

LET'S READ ROMANS 4:1-3.

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

What do you remember about Abraham's story? What elements of his life remind you that he was a person just like us? (Genesis 12)

What exactly did Abraham believe that led God to credit him with righteousness? (Genesis 15)

LET'S READ ROMANS 4:4-5.

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

If someone is hired for a job with an agreed upon payment, could the employer act like he or she was doing the employee a favor by paying them?

If salvation is by works and not by grace, is it fair to say that salvation is not a gift but a debt God owes?

LET'S READ ROMANS 4:6-8.

⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

How can God never charge a sinner with sin?

How could David have understood imputed righteousness?

How can we demonstrate our joy and gratitude at having our sins covered and never being charged with sin?

Application

How helpful might it be to meditate on the fact that Jesus was gracious enough to bear your sins by imputation?

If we remember that anyone who believes can receive Christ's righteousness, how might that encourage us to share our faith with anyone we meet?

How freeing is it to realize that we get credited with Christ's righteousness and do not have to depend on our own works for salvation?

How will that change our behavior and joy in our works?