

GOD'S PROTOTYPE

ROMANS 4:9-16

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Our Lord shows us in these scriptures that your salvation is the same as Abraham's. To be justified as Abraham was, means that God declares you righteous as He is righteous, making fellowship with Him possible. (For more on God's prototype see The Reformation Study Bible, **Romans 4:9-12** footnote.)

JUSTIFIED NOT BY RITUALS—Abraham was justified and saved as a Gentile before Judaism existed. Circumcision or Christian rituals may *point* to righteousness from God but they do not *give* that righteousness. (**Romans 4:9-12, fn 4:10, fn 4:10-12, Galatians 3:6-9, fn 3:6-9, Galatians 5:1-6, fn 5:3, 4, fn 5:6, Colossians 2:16, 17, fn 2:16,17**)

How could you look through your church rituals and understand the righteousness experienced by Abraham?

JUSTIFIED NOT BY LAW—Abraham was justified and saved as a Gentile years before the introduction of the Mosaic Law. When you are living by law, you find satisfaction in what you do. When living by faith you find satisfaction in what God does. (**Romans 4:13-15, Galatians 3:15-25, fn 3:18, 19, II Corinthians 3:7-18, fn 3:13-18, Galatians 2:20, 21, fn 2:21**) *What in your life shows evidence that you find satisfaction in what God is doing?*

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH THROUGH GRACE—Like you and me, Abraham was a sinful man, incapable of saving himself; but God, by His grace, provided salvation for Abraham and for all who would believe. (**Romans 4:16, fn 4:16, fn 4:17, John 1:14-18, fn 1:17, Ephesians 1:6-8, fn 1:7,8, Romans 5:1, 2, fn 5:2, II Corinthians 5:20-6:2, fn 5:21, fn 6:2**) *Why did God use grace (God's power) to save you and Abraham?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.