

JUSTIFICATION FROM THE BEGINNING

ROMANS 4:1-8

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

BACKGROUND: To enable you to have a personal relationship with Jesus, God gives you what you do not have—His righteousness. Quoting from the earliest of Scriptures, Paul shows you that mankind’s justification has always been (and continues to be so) by faith alone.

IS BY FAITH ALONE. “God reckoned righteousness to believing Abraham (Genesis 15:6). This means that God credited to Abraham that which he did not have in himself...it means that God accepted Abraham because he trusted in God rather than trusting in something that he could do.” *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, p. 812. Abraham believed God by faith that he would be the father of a multitude of descendants. It is by the same faith as Abraham had that you believe and God credits to you what you do not have, His righteousness and justification. (**Romans 4:1-3, fn 4:1-3, fn 3:28, Genesis 15:5, 6, fn 15:6, John 8:52-58, fn 8:56, Hebrews 11:6, fn 11:6, Romans 4:23-25, fn 4:25**) *Why is your salvation by faith alone?*

IS NOT BY WORKS. God’s plan of salvation is not by merit or reward for good behavior. To know God and fellowship with Him, you must have His righteousness. God gives you His righteousness not because of obligation of your goodness or good works, but by faith alone in Jesus Christ. (**Romans 4:4, fn 4:4, Romans 11:6, fn 11:6, Galatians 2:17-21, fn 2:17-19, Isaiah 64:6, fn 64:6, Matthew 7:21-23, fn 7:21-23**) *How does salvation by faith alone and the principle of living by faith show God’s genius in the plan of salvation?*

IS GIVEN WITH FORGIVENESS AND NO GUILT. David was blessed and free from guilt because he was justified by faith alone and not by works. He understood that his sins were forgiven. (**Romans 4:5-8, fn 4:6-8, I John 1:9, fn 1:9{2nd}, I John 2:1, 2, fn 2:1, 2, Hebrews 10:11-18,22, fn 10:14**) *What do you need to do to not feel guilty of sin that was committed before your salvation? What about after your salvation?*

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