



ROMANS

Being a Christian instead
of being Religious

9. How to be declared right by God

Romans 4

- Paul proves and illustrates the truths of 3:21-31 by looking at the OT
- Specifically he uses Abraham, the great Old Testament saint

1. **We are not declared right by anything we do v1-17**

- Not even Abraham could make himself right with God
 - a) **Abraham was not declared right by works**
 - Given righteousness as a free & unearned gift of grace through faith
 - Righteousness is credited – it is not earned
 - b) **Abraham was not declared right by circumcision**
 - We are not declared right in God's sight by faith plus something
 - c) **Abraham was not declared right by the law**
 - The law was given 430 years **after** Abraham was declared right with God
 - God doesn't say 'Obey this law and I will bless you', but 'I will bless you; believe my promise'.
- "the only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary"

2. **We are declared right by what God does v5**

- "God justifies the wicked"
- God takes the initiative in our salvation
- On the cross the perfect life of Christ was credited to our account
- God does not count our sins against us
- We are truly forgiven

3. **We respond in faith v18-25**

- An unwavering faith in the God of the impossible
 - It seemed like an impossible situation
 - Faith always looks at the problems in the light of the promises
 - Faith perseveres and grows stronger
 - Do you have such a faith
 - Ultimately, it isn't faith itself, but faith's Object that we must focus on. It isn't faith that saves, but Christ through faith



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