

Becoming a Crutch Kicker

Romans 4:1-15

“This is the truth of the gospel. It is the principal article of all Christian doctrine ... it is most necessary, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually.” – Martin Luther



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“If you were to die tonight, as you stand before God and He asks, ‘Why should I let you enter heaven?’, how would you respond?”

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4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?

3:22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. ...²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

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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.”

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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.

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Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

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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.”

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- The standard is arbitrary
- No assurance
- It is contrary to what the Bible teaches
- It makes the crucifixion of Jesus unnecessary

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Galatians 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

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⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

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So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. ¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.