

Romans 4:1-8
“Practical Effects of Justification”

~ INTRO ~

TODAY...

- Let's start with (Ps. 119:130) NLT.
 - God's wisdom is greater than ours.
 - And we CAN understand what He's saying to us.

LAST WEEK WE LEARNED...

- About *Justification* in three ways:
 - 1) *Justification* is an ACT of God and not earned by man.
 - 2) There's no degrees of *justification*.
 - 3) God **doesn't** make us righteous; **He** declares us righteous.

NOW... IN (Rom. 4)...

- We learn about *Justification* from history.
 - Thru Abraham – the father of faith...
 - And David – a man after God's own heart.
- Two well known & respected men in Jewish history.

ABRAHAM...

- Comes out of (Genesis)... which relates to the books of the Law.

WHEREAS... DAVID...

- **Is known** for the book of (Psalms)...
 - Which is **linked with** the prophets.

(Rom 3:21)...

- The **law & the prophets** were the OT witnesses.
 - AND **Paul uses** them **to illustrate the harmony** of God...
 - From the OT into the NT.

JUST LIKE THIS...

- OT = (Mal. 3:6) NKJV
- NT = (Heb. 13:8) NKJV

IDEA #1 – JUSTIFICATION IS BY FAITH

Romans 4:1-8
“Practical Effects of Justification”

IN (Rom. 4)...

- Paul uses the Greek word *Li-Ge-Zo-My* 11-times...
 - (*accounted* OR *imputed*)

A BANKING TERM FOR...

- 1) **Collecting** credits & debits
- 2) **Totaling** them up
- 3) **Placing** the balance into an account

- We understand it as *reconciling* a bank account.
 - Our sin-debt is greater than we can pay.
 - But Jesus balances our account with a surplus.

THE TAKE AWAY IS SIMPLE...

- Salvation in the OT & NT is the same... it's “*by faith.*”
- *Justification* **is not a new** concept...
 - Because it goes all the way back to Abraham...
 - In (Gen. 15:2-6) NKJV.

PERHAPS...

- You're learning this for this first-time ??!
 - Yet God has been working on your behalf from the beginning.
 - That's how great His love for you is.

IDEA #2 – JUSTIFICATION IS NOT BY WORKS

(v.4) The person **trying to work** for God's approval is skipping God's grace...

- And messing up the accounting process *Li-Ge-Zo-My* = *Counted.*

(v.5) ABRAHAM...

- Is the perfect illustration for us...
 - As God *justifies* a man who wrestles with this concept for 25-yrs.

LET'S WATCH THIS IN ACTION...

(Gen. 12:1-4)

- God promised to make Abraham fruitful & give him a child @ 75-yrs old.

Romans 4:1-8
“Practical Effects of Justification”

(Gen. 16:1-4 & 15-16)

- Abraham waited about 10-yrs before helping God @ 86-yrs old.
 - He & his wife (Sarai) agreed to use her maidservant (Hagar)
 - To have a son (Ismael).
 - But it only created problems for them!

(Gen 17:1-8)

- At 99-yrs old.
 - Abraham couldn't physically do anything else...
 - Then (v.1) God said to him
 - *walk before Me and be blameless.*

(Gen. 21:5-7) NKJV

- Finally... at 100-yrs old the promise was received.

GOD DELAYED...

- Fulfilling the promise...
 - Until all of Abraham's **natural strength ran out.**
 - Until his efforts came to an end & he surrendered.

GANG...

- We're **prone to add to** God's work... BUT we can't!
- We just need to accept it by faith.
 - *Justification is by faith & not works.*

WHAT IS GOD DELAYING IN YOUR LIFE...

- Because you won't let go?
 - Because you won't trust Him?

(Phil. 1:11) NLT

IDEA #3 – JUSTIFICATION PULLS US OUT OF SIN

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S GRACE...

- David remembers when he got stuck in sin (Ps. 32:1-2) NLT.
- When he didn't deal with it... this is what happened (Ps. 32:3-4) NLT.

Romans 4:1-8
“*Practical Effects of Justification*”

- But when he confessed it... look what God did (Ps. 32:5) NLT.

CHURCH...

- Recognize the distinction between...
 - Our position as justified in Christ...
 - And our condition as still being prone to sin.
- **We're still going to blow it!**
 - BUT we've been declared righteous by grace... thru faith...
 - And NOT because of works.

IF YOU'RE CONDEMNED IN SIN THIS MORNING...

- God wants to help you.

~ IN CLOSING ~

CAN I OFFER YOU... God's Grace?

- 1) Will you **ACCEPT** His love & have your sins forgiven?
- 2) Will you **CONFESS** the struggles you're having to Him?
- 3) Will you walk by **FAITH** & allow God to move the mountains in your life?