

## Unashamed The Book of Romans

### HEAR IT

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### READ IT

Romans 4:1-12

Key Verses: “What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Romans 4:1-3  
“...just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Romans 4:6-7

### REVIEW IT

In Chapter 3, Paul writes on justification by faith. Now in Chapter 4, he presents a specific example of justification by faith in a well-known individual, Abraham. Two points are made: 1) Abraham was not justified, or made right before God, by his own actions. If he had been, he would have something to brag about - his heritage, his race, his clean living, his ability to keep the Law of God. Paul uses a Greek financial term *logizomai* to show that it was Abraham’s faith that God credited to him as righteousness, not his works. 2) Abraham was not justified by circumcision. The Roman church was made of Jews and those who weren’t Jewish. Paul needed to establish that the Jews were not blessed by God’s justification because of their circumcision, something they thought set them apart as God’s chosen. Paul makes it clear that Abraham was the father of all who have faith and believe in Christ, because he believed first and then was circumcised. Faith and not circumcision unites believers. Faith is found in God through Christ and Christ Alone.

### DISCUSS IT

How does Paul use the Old Testament to show that God’s plan from the beginning was that our faith would make us righteous, not our good deeds and acts? See Genesis 15:6

What are the differences between a wage and a gift? Why is the distinction between the two important when it comes to understanding justification?

What are ways that we try to earn favor with God? Can you think of specific things you do that you think make you a good person and therefore more deserving of God's love at times?

What are the circumcision issues today? In other words, what are things that people trust in for their salvation other than God's grace in Christ alone?

### **PRAY IT**

Dear Lord, Thank you for justifying me through Christ alone. I confess that at times I trust in other things or feel important in my good works rather than the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Teach me to accept your complete love for me. In Jesus name, Amen

### **APPLY IT**

Take time to spend a little time with God every day this week, reading Scriptures that assure you that it is Christ alone who saves you. Look up the Greek word *logizomai*. It appears in Chapter 4 an astounding 11 times. Think of an example today that would illustrate a credit to an account and then write an explanation of how that applies to righteousness before God. One example would be going to pay for groceries and the cashier telling you that everything has been paid for- for the rest of your life.