

Abraham Righteous by Faith

Romans 4:1-8

These **purposes** of the **Law** can be **summed up**, I think best by **Calvin** and **Luther**, who both saw the Law having a **3-fold purpose**. They believed the Law still continues to serve a **vital purpose** for both **sinner** and **saint**. These are referred to as a **curb**, a **mirror**, and a **guide**.

- **Curb** – The **Law** serves to **curb** people's **sins** by providing a **curb** of **restraint**, by defining a **moral guideline** for **public law** and **conscience**.
- **Mirror** – The **Law** serves to **show us** our **sin** by defining **morality** for us as it exposes us to **God's character** and will
- **Guide** – **After** we are **saved**, the **Law** provides us a **fixed rule** to **guide** us with a **general knowledge** of **God's will** for living

In **today's** text, **Romans 4:1-8**, Paul will again **address** the **Jews** and help them to see that **Abraham**, the revered **Old Testament patriarch**, was indeed the **example** of the **righteousness** that **comes by faith**. **God** justifies the **ungodly** and **reckons righteous** all who **believe**, apart from **works**. This is His **gracious** gift, the **blessing** of **forgiveness** and **covering** for **sins**. Grounding his argument in the **life** of **Abraham** from the **Law**, and quoting the **Psalms**, Paul **convinces** the **Jews** that this has **always** been the way God **justifies** His people.

In today's text **Romans 4:1-8** we will see

- **4:1-3 - Abraham Righteous by Faith**
- **4:4-8 - Seven Characteristics of God's Righteousness**
Righteousness is the reckoning of faith not of works
v-4-5

Righteousness is God justifying the ungodly v-5

Righteousness is a blessed gift v-6

Righteousness God reckons apart from works v-6

Righteousness a result of forgiveness of lawless
deeds and sins v-7

Righteousness is a covering for sins v-7

Righteousness is God not taking account of sin v-8

Genesis 15:4-7 - 4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "**This man will not be your heir; but one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.**" 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "**So shall your descendants be.**" 6 **Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.** NASB

Romans 3:28 - 28 **For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.** NASB

Psalms 32:1-2 - 1 **How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!** 2 **How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,** And in whose spirit there is no deceit! NASB

Galatians 3:8-9 - 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations shall be blessed in you." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. NASB

Galatians 2:15-16 - 15 "We are Jews by nature, and not sinners from among the Gentiles; 16 **nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law** but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and **not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.** NASB

Philippians 3:3, 8-10 - 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the **Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh....** 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the **surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, 9 and **may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**

Ephesians 1:3-8 - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 **to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,** NASB

Psalm 103:10-12 - 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. **12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.** NASB

Micah 7:18-19 - 18 Who is a God like Thee, **who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act** of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; **He will tread our iniquities under foot.** Yes, **Thou wilt cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.** NASB

Isaiah 43:25 - 25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. NASB

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

Philippians 3:3 - 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the **Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.** NASB

Psalm 116:12-13 - 12 What shall I render to the Lord For all His benefits toward me? 13 **I shall lift up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the Lord.** NASB