

Romans

Abraham Justified by Faith ([Romans 4:1-12](#))

Read: Abraham Justified by Faith (4:1-12)

Explain: Abraham Justified by Faith (4:1-12)

Are there any literary/structural observations?

What do the words mean?

1 **What then shall we say** [future active indicative] **was gained by Abraham** [“father of a multitude”], **our forefather according to the flesh?** **2** **For if Abraham was justified** [aorist middle indicative; render just, render innocent] **by works, he has** [present active indicative] **something to boast** [boast, glory, rejoice] **about, but not before God.** **3** **For what does the Scripture say** [present active indicative]? **“Abraham believed** [aorist active indicative; had faith, credited, entrusted, believed, committed, put trust with] **God, and it was counted** [*logizomai*; aorist middle indicative; taken inventory, estimated, concluded, esteemed, _____, numbered, reasoned, _____] **to him as righteousness** [equity, justification, righteousness].” **4** **Now to the one who works** [present middle participle], **his wages** [pay, reward, wages] **are not counted** [*logizomai*; present middle indicative] **as a gift** [*charis*; acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, grace, pleasure] **but as his due** [something owed, due, fault, debt]. **5** **And to the one who does not work** [present middle participle] **but believes** [present active participle] **in him who justifies** [present active participle] **the ungodly** [irreverent, impious, wicked, ungodly], **his faith** [persuasion, credence, moral conviction, reliance, constancy in profession, assurance, belief, faith] **is counted** [*logizomai*; present middle indicative] **as righteousness,** **6** **just as David** [“beloved”] **also speaks** [present active indicative] **of the blessing** [beatification, attribution of good fortune, blessedness] **of the one to whom God counts** [*logizomai*; present middle indicative] **righteousness apart** [at a space, separately, apart, beside, by itself, without] **from works:**

7 **“Blessed** [fortunate, well off, happy] **are those whose lawless deeds** [illegality, violation of the law, wickedness, iniquity, transgression, unrighteousness] **are forgiven** [aorist middle indicative; **Where did those sins go?** They went on _____], **and whose sins** [sin, offenses] **are covered** [aorist middle indicative; concealed, forgiven, covered];

8 **blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count** [*logizomai*; aorist active subjunctive and a _____ negative] **his sin** [sin, offense].”

9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say [present active indicative] that faith was counted [logizomai; aorist middle indicative] to Abraham as righteousness. **10** How then was it counted [logizomai; aorist middle indicative] to him? Was it before or after he had been [present middle participle] circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. **11** He received [second aorist active indicative] the sign [indication, miracle, sign, token, wonder] of circumcision as a seal [signet, stamp, seal] of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make [present middle infinitive] him the father of all who believe [present active participle] without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted [logizomai; aorist middle infinitive] to them as well, **12** and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk [present active participle] in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Are there any repeated words?

Are there any repeated topics?

What are some observations of the text?

3 Guzik: Our justification is not God _____ us perfectly righteous, but _____ us as perfectly righteous.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Justification is by _____
2. God's accounting is the only accounting that matters
3. Order matters (faith → _____ → _____)

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Stop _____ and believe the gospel
2. Stop keeping _____ and believe the gospel
3. Stop _____ and believe the gospel

Recommended resource: The lyrics to Flame's *Start Over*

Next week: The Promise Realized Through Faith (4:13-25)

Homework: Ask, Read, Talk, Send