

The People of Blessing

Romans 4:9-16a

We often think of blessings in terms of material blessings. I have heard people say, “*I thank God for my blessings*” in reference to all the magnificent comforts they enjoy in this life. The greatest blessings, however, are all spiritual since they are eternal in nature.

“They that trust in their wealth and boast about their riches . . . none of them can by any means give to God a ransom for the soul. For the soul is far too precious to be ransomed by mere earthly wealth.” (Psalm 49:6, 8 The Amplified Bible). Therefore, the greatest blessings in life are those Paul describes in Romans chapter 4. These blessings include:

(1). Being justified by God (v.5) --- “*Declared perfectly righteous by God.*”

God imputes righteousness --- “*He credits to our account perfect righteousness.*”

*“David describes the **blessedness** of the man unto whom God imputes righteousness”*(v.6).

God does not impute sin --- “*He takes off our account, hides and conceals our sin.*”

“Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (v.8).

(2). Being acceptable and pleasing to God

“Therefore being justified . . . we have peace with God through Jesus Christ” (12:1).

These are the twin pillars of great blessing and our text tells us **who** shall be blessed.

I. These blessings do not come naturally . . .

“Cometh this blessedness upon the circumcision only?” (Romans 4:9).

The Jews had the belief that they, and only they, could receive God’s favor. A 1st century Jew named Trypho wrote of this common belief in a letter to Justin Martyr.

“The seed of Abraham according to the flesh, shall share in the eternal kingdom simply because we are Jews.” This is similar to the feelings many people have today regarding their right standing with God being due to their birth within a Christian family, or living in a Christian nation. However, justification is not a result of birth.

II. These blessings do not come religiously . . .

If God does not justify you because of your birth, then it must be because of works!

Wrong! God does not justify you because of your religious works, whatever they are.

(A). By circumcision and baptism . . . two religious acts (one for the Jews the other for the church) that do not bring about imputation of righteousness (v.9-13).

(B). By the law or religious deeds . . . or any other activities that we perform.

“The promise was not through the law . . . because the law works wrath” (v.15).

III. These blessings come spiritually . . .

Justification and acceptance with God is a work done by God Himself on our behalf.

It is a work that God performs (“**He justifies the ungodly**” 4:5). Therefore, we must:

BELIEVE! “*Therefore, it (the blessing) is of faith, that it might be by grace*” (v.16).

This is difficult for many of you, right? How can a holy God bless us so mightily?

“I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe that I may understand: for this I also believe, that unless I believe I will not understand” **Anselm.**