

Justification by Faith
as preached by Bill Hale May 24th 2009

Intro - Many people boast that they are right before God because they have done good works. "Do good receive good" and "Do bad receive bad." They believe their so called "good" works will be enough to cancel or cover up their guilt for sin. God has much to say to us about this idea through the Apostle Paul. Paul gives us a crystal, clear understanding of how to be justified before God in the book of Romans chapters 3 and 4. So, please open your Bibles to the book Romans chapter 3 and verse 9.

1. All Are Under Sin

- a. Romans 3:9-19 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, (10) as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God.
- b. James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

2. No Flesh is Justified by the Works of the Law

- a. Romans 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
- b. Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

3. We Are Justified by Faith in Christ

- a. Romans 3:22-24 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- b. Galatians 2:16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

4. This Kind of Justification Excludes Boasting/Promotes Humility

- a. Romans 3:27-28 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. (28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
- b. Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
- c. 1 Corinthians 4:7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

5. We Have Not Earned a *Wage* of Justification

- a. Romans 4:4-5 Now to the one who works, his *wages* are not counted as a gift but as his due. (5) And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,
- b. Romans 6:23 For the *wages* of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6. Why Do We Do Good Works? Because it is the right response to repentance.

- a. Matthew 3:8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
- b. Acts 26:20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.
- c. James 2:16-19 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (17) So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (18) But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (19) You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder!