



statutes, and my laws!”

- Many Jews Believe That:
  - Abraham Was **So** Righteous That:
    - He Kept God’s Law Even Before:
    - God Gave Them His Law:
      - And That He Never Had Any Reason To Repent!

4. So - Paul Deals With This:

- In 4:1-8 - Because - If It Can Be Proven:
  - That Good Works Don’t Work:
    - For Someone Like Abraham:
      - Then - Good Works Won’t Work:
        - For Anyone - Like You & Like Me!

5. So - Beginning In 4:1:

- Paul Asks:
  - “What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?”
- Here - Paul Appeals To:
  - The Prime Ancestor Of The Jews!
    - Not Only Did They Consider Him:
      - To Be Perfectly Righteous!
    - They Also Believed Their Connection To Abraham Was All That Was Necessary:
      - To Be Right With God!
  - In John 8:33 - The Jews Reminded Jesus That:
    - “We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man!”

6. So - Paul Appeals To:

- The Prime Authority Of The Jews As Well - And Asks:
  - “What Did Abraham Find / Discover?”
    - **IE:** To Discover Something - Doesn’t Mean That You’ve Found Something Entirely New - Just That - It Is New To You! When We Say That Columbus Or Any Other Explorer “Discovered” A New Place - Or Even - That A Scientist “Discovers” A New Species - It Only Means That It Was New To Them! It Truth, It Was There All Along!
- This Is True About:
  - Salvation & Justification By Faith:
    - As Well!
      - Abraham Himself Discovered / Found Out That His Own Flesh & His Own Works:
        - Had Absolutely Nothing To Do With His Standing With God!
- So - Why Not Works?

\* Because - First - When You Rely On Your Own Works - It Robs Your Salvation:

1. ***Of God’s Glory!***

- Which Is What We Find In:
  - 4:2-3 - “For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. / For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness!”
    - The Bible Is Clear That:
      - Abraham Was A Justified Man!
        - Justified By God & Justified Before God!
          - Everyone Would Agree To This!
    - But - If His Right Standing With God:
      - Was Based On His Works:
        - Then - He Would Have Something To Boast About:
          - As The Reason For His Relationship With God!
            - Something In Himself!
            - Something In His Flesh!
    - But - Paul Has Already Established:
      - In 3:27 - That Boasting Is Excluded!
        - “Where is boasting then?” - Paul Asked - “It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith!”
  - You See - Salvation & Justification:
    - Is A Matter Of:

- God's Glory - Not Man's!
  - If You Have Something To Boast About - Then **You** Get The Credit & The Glory:
    - And Not God!
- So - Even If Abraham Had:
  - Something To Boast About & Glory In:
- God Is Unimpressed!
  - Because - As It Says In 4:2:
    - "But Not Before God!"
      - Good Works - Not Even Abraham's:
        - Will Impress Or Satisfy:
          - God!
  - Your Works Can Impress:
    - And Sway Man:
      - But They Can Never:
        - Impress Or Sway:
          - God!
- But - Not Only That:
  - When It Comes To Being "Justified By Works":
- It Is [Also] Unscriptural!
  - Because Of What The Scripture Tells Us!
    - And In 4:3 - Paul Quotes A Verse That Would Have Been Very Familiar To The Jews:
      - Genesis 15:6 - "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness!"
  - Now - Paul Picked This Verse On Purpose:
    - Because This Verse Was Used By The Jews:
      - As Proof That Abraham Was Justified By His Works!
        - They Even Include His Faith As One Of His Works!
  - But - By Using This Verse:
    - Paul Shows That They Are Not Only Misinterpreting It - But They Are Also:
      - Redefining Faith & Belief!
  - Abraham's Faith Was Not A Work That Justified Him!
    - Instead - His Faith Was An Acceptance:
      - Of **God's** Work:
        - To Justify Him!
    - William Newell - "When Abraham Believed God, He Did The One Thing That A Man Can Do Without Doing Anything! There Was No Effort Here! Abraham's Faith Was Not An Act, But An Attitude!"
  - He Simply:
    - "Believed God!"
      - He Believed In The Reality Of God & In The Revelation Of God & In The Reward Of God!
        - That God Himself Was His Shield & His Exceeding Great Reward! (Genesis 15:1)
    - He Believed In:
      - All That God Was & Did & Would Do!
        - It Was Also A Faith In The One Whom God Would Send, As The "Seed" Who Would Redeem Him From His Sin!
    - We Know This, Because Jesus Himself Said:
      - In John 8:56 - "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad!"
        - Abraham Was Justified:
          - Because He Trusted In Christ!
    - "Abraham Believed God!"
- And What Did God Do?
  - "And It Was Counted Unto Him For Righteousness!"
    - The Word Translated "Counted" Here:
      - Is An Important Word!
        - It Means To Impute Or To Reckon Something To An Account!

- It Means That:
  - One Thing Is Taken For Something Else!
    - **IE:** Like Using One Form Of Currency Instead Of Another To Buy Something! If You Lent Someone \$1 And Someone Offers You A Chicken Instead - It Is Up To You To Either Accept Or Reject That Offer! But - If You The Chicken - You Have "Imputed" That To Their Account - And Their Debt Has Been Paid!
- So It Is With Us! All Of Us! Abraham Included!
  - We All Owe God An Infinite Debt:
    - Because Of Our Sin!
      - And - A Perfect Righteousness & A Complete Restitution Is Required!
        - But - From Us - God Will Accept A Payment Of A Different Sort!
  - Faith! Belief!
    - In Jesus & **His** Payment:
      - On The Cross For Our Sin!
- And - When Abraham Believed:
  - And - When You Believe:
    - God Will Accept Your Faith As Payment In Full For The Debt That You Owe!
      - Because - God Alone Can Set The Terms!
  - And Yet - By Keeping His Promises:
    - To Abraham & Sending Christ:
      - To Pay For His Debt:
        - God Remained Both "Just, And The Justifier Of Him Which Believeth In Jesus!" (3:26)
  - And When You Are Justified:
    - By Faith:
      - The Glory Of God:
        - Is Maintained!

\* Another Reason Why Salvation Is Not By Works - Is Because - Second - When You Rely On Your Own Works - It Robs Your Salvation:

## 2. ***Of God's Grace!***

- Which Is What We Find Next In:
  - 4:4-5 - "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. / But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness!"
    - So - Not Only Is Your Salvation & Justification:
      - A Matter Of God's Glory:
        - It Is Also A Matter Or God's Grace!
  - Your Salvation Can't Be Based On Your Works:
    - Because Of:
- The Nature Of Work [Itself]!
  - Verse 4 Gives A General Principle:
    - Not Just Of Spiritual Works:
      - But - Of Work In General:
        - About Which The Bible Has A Lot To Say!
  - If You Work:
    - You Should Get Paid!
      - Put In Terms Of Scripture:
        - "The Laborer Is Worthy Of His Hire!"
  - And So - Paul Adds:
- The Nature Of Wages!
  - When You Work:
    - Your "Reward" - Or Pay:
      - Is "Not Reckoned Of Grace, But Of Debt!"
  - When You Get Paid:
    - For The Work You Do:
      - It Is An Expectation - Not A Gift!
    - **IE:** Have You Ever Been Mis-Payed! I Have! Not The Right Amount! Not On The Right Day! Different Reasons - But Still Feels Very Unjust!

- Because The Boss Owes You For Your Work Until You Are Paid!
- Well - As It Is Naturally:
  - So It Is Spiritually!
    - If A Person Is To Work For Their Justification:
      - Then - By Their Works Will They Be Esteemed!
  - But - There's One Big Difference!
    - And That Is - There Is No Debt:
      - That God Owes To You As A Sinner!
    - Instead - No Matter How Much You Work:
      - You Can Never Repay The Debt You Owe To God!
- But - That's Where The Gospel Comes In!
  - Because - In 4:5 - Once Again:
    - Paul Reiterates - "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness!"
  - God Calls On You & Me:
    - To **Stop** Working:
      - And **Start** Resting - By Faith:
        - On The Lord & His Way:
          - Of Salvation & Justification!
  - Because - Who Does He Justify?
    - "The Ungodly!"
      - This Is How We Are - And:
        - This Is How We Must Come:
          - In Order To Be Saved!
  - Because - Only When You Are Justified:
    - By Faith:
      - The Glory & The Grace Of God:
        - Are Maintained!
          - And Then - By God's Grace - He Accepts You Even As He Accepted Abraham!

\* But Then - We Find Another Reason Why Salvation Is Not By Works - And That Is Because - Third - When You Rely On Your Own Works - It Robs Your Salvation:

### 3. ***Of God's Goodness!***

- Which Is What We Find In:
  - 4:6-8 - Where Paul Brings Up What King David Found As Well!
    - "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, / Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. / Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin!"
  - Remember When Paul Asked:
    - In 4:1 - "What Shall We Say Then?"
      - Well - After Looking At Abraham:
        - From Genesis 15 - And:
      - Now - By Looking At David's Words:
        - From Psalm 32:
    - Paul Gives Us An Example Of:
      - Saying Only:
        - What The Scripture Says!
      - This Is Where We Must Go:
        - For The Answers To The Questions That We Have:
          - About Our Souls & Our Salvation!
  - As We Are Told In Isaiah 8:20:
    - "To The Law & To The Testimony!"
      - It Is God's Word That Will Settle The Matter:
        - Of Faith & Works!
  - And So - To The Inspired Words Of King David:
    - We Turn - Where David Himself:
      - "Describeth The Blessedness Of The Man Unto Whom God Imputeth Righteousness

- Without Works!"
- The Key Word Again Is:
  - "Impute!"
    - Instead Of God Giving Sinners What They Deserve:
      - In His Goodness, He Blesses Them - Entirely Apart From Their Works!
- How Does God Reveal His Goodness?
- God Releases Us From Our Defiant Condition!
  - 4:7 - "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven!"
    - The Word Translated "Iniquities" Can Also Be Translated "Lawlessness!"
      - It Describes Your Sin As:
        - An Utter Contempt & Defiance Of God:
          - By Presumptuously Living & Acting Contrary To His Law!
  - But - What Does God Do:
    - To Those Who Are Defiant & Ungodly?
      - He Forgives Us!
        - **IE:** Like Releasing Someone From A Debt They Owe - God Forgives!
  - As We Find In Hebrews 10:12:
    - "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more!"
      - God Is So Good! But Also:
  - God Removes From Us Our Disgraceful Condition!
    - 4:7b - "And whose sins are covered!"
      - "Sin" Means To "Miss The Mark" Of God & His Glory!
        - It Describes You As Wandering From The Path Of Uprightness & Honor That Belongs To The Lord!
    - But - What Does God Do:
      - To Those Who Are Disgraceful & Ungodly?
        - He Covers Our Sins!
          - **IE:** Not Just In The Old Testament Sense - Of A Covering Over - But By Blotting Out Something - Never To Brought Up Again!
    - As We Find In Psalm 103:11-12:
      - "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. / As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us!"
        - God Is So Good! But Also:
    - God Restores Us From Our Depraved Condition!
      - 4:8 - "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin!"
        - This Is The Fifth Time In These 8 Verses:
          - Where We Find That Word "Impute" Or "Reckon" Again!
            - And It Means That God Does Not Hold Sin Against Us!
              - He Does Not Hold It To Our Account!
      - Even As God Did For King Hezekiah:
        - In Isaiah 38:17 - When He Said - "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back!"
          - God Is So Good!
    - And All Of This Goodness:
      - God Made Available & Accessible:
        - To The Ungodly!
          - To Us!
          - To Abraham!
          - And - Even To David!
      - Because - As David Fully Understood:
        - There Is No Sacrifice - Except One:
          - That Can Pay The Debt We Owe!
            - No Amount Of Work:
              - Ever Can!
        - Psalm 51:16-17 - "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. / The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt

- not despise!"
- And - If God **Does Not**:
  - Impute Our Sin & Our Iniquity:
    - To Our Account:
      - Then - What **Does** He Impute?
      - The Opposite!
      - Righteousness!
- And - Only When You Are Justified:
  - By Faith:
    - The Glory & The Grace & The Goodness Of God:
      - Are Maintained!
- In These Verses - Paul Quoted David:
  - From The First Two Verses Of Psalm 32!
    - But - If You Go A Little Further In The Psalm:
      - You Find Out How David Received:
        - God's Goodness & Blessing!
  - In Psalm 32:5 - David Says:
    - "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin!"
      - So - David Responded To The Lord:
        - The Same Way Abraham Did!
          - By Faith!
  - And - It Too:
    - "Was Counted Unto Him For Righteousness!"

**Conclusion:**

1. This Is What Father Abraham Discovered!
  - This Is What King David Discovered!
    - And - This Is What We Can / Should Discover As Well!
      - Because - Works:
        - Will Always Rob Salvation:
          - Of God's Glory & God's Grace & God's Goodness!
2. And In Doing So:
  - Becomes Our Own Attempt:
    - At Salvation - Which Is:
      - No Salvation At All!
  - But Instead:
    - "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin!"
      - By Faith In Christ Alone!

- \* Are You Relying On Your Works To Have A Right Relationship With God?
- \* Or - Do You Have An Attitude Of Faith In God & His Work?
- \* Are You Enjoying The "Blessedness" Of God's Forgiveness By Faith Alone?

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