



TRANSFER OF TRUST

Life Group Study -- Week of March 17, 2019

Memorize.

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

Romans 4:4-5

Open. When you boast, what do you usually boast about?

Study.

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim's message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions did it raise for you, if any?

This passage is relatively short, so begin by reading Romans 4:1-8 aloud in two or three modern translations. What are these eight verses about?

Read Romans 1:2; 3:21; 3:31? What point is common to all three verses? By teaching a doctrine of justification by grace through faith, is Paul asserting some new, unheard-of doctrine? Why is the answer to this question so important?

Why then do you think Paul calls upon Abraham and David in particular as witnesses to the claims he is making? Who was each of them to the Jewish people? See *Isaiah 51:1-2*.

What four episodes in Abraham's life are rehearsed in Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19 as demonstrations of faith? How does each one in turn represent a progressive transfer of trust for Abraham from himself to God?

What does Paul want his readers to understand in Romans 4:2 (*compare 3:20, 27-28*)?

Read Romans 4:3 and Genesis 15:6. How many times in Romans 4:1-8 does the word "count" or "counted" appear?

In each case, the word "counted" is *logizomai* (lo-gid'-zo-mahee). It comes from the world of accounting and was used of the act of applying a credit to someone's account. Consider Paul's contrast of "gift" and "due/wage" in verses 4-5. Why is the righteousness God offers either a gift or nothing at all?

What title does Paul give to God in verse 5? What does it mean? Does God justify the ungodly, or the reformed?

Many believe that David wrote Psalm 32 after his adultery with Bathsheba and his treachery toward her husband, Uriah (2 Samuel 11). What three words does David use in verses 1-5 for what separated him from God? What three words does he employ to describe the action God took in relation to each?

How does David's exclamation in verses 1-5 reinforce Paul's teaching of the doctrine of justification by faith?

As you relate to God personally, how have you mostly viewed him?

- As One who condemns the ungodly
- As One who justifies the ungodly
- As one who may be there but is irrelevant to my life

Would you like to receive God's gift of sins forgiven? Might now be the moment that you transfer your trust from yourself to Christ?

Remember to pray for, and share Christ with your

