



Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

How to be Accepted by God

3 different ways people try to get to heaven:

- Good works
- Belonging to the right group
- By faith alone

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Romans 3:28

2 Key Words:

- Justified – Greek *dikaionomai* - “to declare not guilty” (*‘just-as-if-I’d’* never sinned)
- Credited – Greek *logizomai* - “to compute, calculate”

How Can I Be Accepted by God?

Lessons from Abraham...

1. We don't become acceptable to God by _____. (Romans 4:1-8)

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If in fact, Abraham was justified by works he had something to boast about - but not before God.

Romans 4:1-2

What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3

He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars - if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:5-6

Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 4:4-5

The wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life.

Romans 6:23

David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Romans 4:6-8

2. We don't become acceptable to God by _____. (Romans 4:9-12)

Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised or before? It was not after, but before!

Romans 4:9-10

Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

On that very day, Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born of his household or bought with his money, every male, and circumcised them as God told him.

Genesis 17:23

KEY POINT:

Abraham was circumcised 14 years after God credited his faith as righteousness.

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:11-12

3. We don't become acceptable to God by _____. (Romans 4:13-15)

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Romans 4:13

KEY POINT:

Abraham lived 430 years before the Law was given.

For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Romans 4:14-15

4. The only way we are acceptable to God is by _____. (Romans 4:16)

Q) Why did God make our acceptance based only on our faith?

A) To demonstrate God's grace.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring - not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Romans 4:16