

FAITH ALONE

Romans 3:21–4:25

Jumping In

1) Of people you know (or have observed) that have various religious faiths. What are some ways they attempt to please God and find eternal life? Do these people seem to have peace of mind? What's the problem with trying to *do* things in order to earn favor with God?

Bible Passage... Read Romans 3:21–4:25

Digging Deeper

2) Why does Paul argue that, when it comes to one's standing before God, no one has the right to boast or be filled with religious pride? *Note every word or phrase in this passage that describes what God has done.*

3) Paul goes to some lengths to demonstrate that Abraham was justified in the sight of God long before he was ever circumcised. Why was this an important argument for him to make to his Roman audience?

4) What is the purpose or effect of God's law (Romans 4:13–15)? *Note every reference in the passage to God's Law*

Cross Reference... Read Galatians 3:6–25, noting the parallels with Romans 3:21–4:25

Exploring the Meaning

5) How does Galatians 3 underscore Paul's argument in chapters 3 and 4?

6) What incidents from the life of Abraham and Sarah does Paul use to make the case that salvation is by divine power, not human effort?

7) Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. If God's wrath is directed toward unrighteousness, and His favor is directed toward righteousness, what are the wonderful implications of this verse for believers?

Taking it to heart

8) Some Christians view God's law and His grace as contradictory. Based on what you have seen in this lesson, how would you harmonize these two truths?

9) If salvation were by human effort, we could boast. Since salvation is all of grace, what is the proper response of the redeemed?

10) What friends, neighbors, and family members do not yet understand the concept of righteousness by faith? Pray that God will open their eyes to this truth.

For further study, see the following passages: Genesis 15:6; Isaiah 53:4–5, 12; Luke 5:32; Acts 17:30–31; 1 Corinthians 1:26–30; 3:21–23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:16; 3:6–7, 24, 29; Colossians 2:11–14; 1 Timothy 2:6; Titus 3:5.