

Abraham: Justified by Faith, Part 3

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 4.
- B. Abraham believed God. (Galatians 3:6)
- C. He believed God for a country, a child and a redeemer. (Galatians 3:16, Hebrews 11:13)
- D. The single seed Abraham believed for was someone other than Isaac. (John 8:56)
- E. Abraham was justified by faith and not works. (Genesis 15:6)

II. The faith of Abraham was the genuine kind. It was all of grace. (Romans 11:6)

III. Four kinds of works.

- A. Bad bad works. Those works of the non-Christian that are evil.
- B. Good bad works. This is unregenerate niceness.
- C. Bad good works. These are the acts of hypocrites.

IV. Faith only comes from recognizing that good works only come from grace. The route to righteousness is recognizing that one is helpless. (Isaiah 64:6)

V. God bestows the same grace on those who observe the commandment their whole life and those who barely make it in. (Matthew 20:1)

VI. God can only justify the ungodly (the only kind of person there really is). Anyone who came to Jesus came knowing that he was a sinner. (Matthew 9)

VII. David is blessed because God did not remember his sin. (Psalm 32; 51)

VIII. The Lord sends our sins away as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 84:3; Psalm 108; Leviticus 16:21)

- A. The Old Testament sacrifices were only pictures of forgiveness.
- B. Christ's righteousness was imputed to us. (Isaiah 53:10, Psalm 110, Exodus 34)

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that mankind is generally good?

2. Why is knowing one's depravity important to receiving forgiveness?

3. Why were the Old Testament sacrifices insufficient for forgiveness? Explain.
