

“No Boasting But Much Rejoicing”

Romans 4:1-8

January 3, 2020

¹ What then are we to say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ² For if Abraham was justified on the ground of works, then he does indeed have a right to boast. But this is not how God sees him; ³ for what does the scripture say? “And Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.” ⁴ Now if a man does have works to his credit, his wages are not reckoned as a matter of grace but what is due; ⁵ but to the man who has no work to his credit but believes in him who justifies the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness, ⁶ even as David also pronounces the blessing of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven and whose sins have been covered; ⁸ blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will in no way count against him.” (Rom. 4:1-8)

I. We Have No Reason to Boast

A. (Abraham’s faith mirrors our own.)

Romans 4:16–17 - ¹⁶ That is why it [God’s promise of salvation] depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”...

B. Did Abraham have a reason for boasting? No, the Scriptures say that even Abraham was justified by faith, while still ungodly.

C. The same is true for us.

II. We Have Every Reason to Rejoice

A. Abraham’s justification (and David’s) included the forgiveness of *sins*.

B. It included not just forgiveness of “small sins”, but truly lawless deeds.

C. Incredibly, Abraham’s and David’s justification included the forgiveness of their future sins too

1. Abraham still had sins that were forgiven after his justification (see Gen. 16).

2. So did David (see Ps. 51!)

D. All of the above is true for believers today!

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.