

Imputed Righteousness
Romans 4

Sometimes we think of the Christian life only in terms of fixed, past decisions like being "born again" or "deciding for Jesus." There are times when decisions must be made, of course, and being born again does indeed happen only once in our lives. But we can go overboard with such an approach, thinking that, if these decisions have been made or these experiences have happened to us once, there is very little to be expected from then on. Actually, those events are only a beginning of the Christian life, and true Christianity is more like a pilgrimage in which every step is to be taken by faith and in the same direction, the direction marked out for us by Abraham.

Abraham was a pilgrim throughout his entire life, and we are to be also. Like him, we are to live "looking forward to the city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). Boice

- I. Genesis 15:6 is the single most important verse in all of Scripture concerning what takes place between a believer and God upon salvation. This is the verse where justification by faith is brought forth for the first time, and it is the first reference in the Bible to the importance of faith, the gift of righteousness and the value of justification (i.e., being declared righteous).

Gen. 15:1-6

- II. When God drew Abraham, he opened his mind, his heart and his passion to embrace the truth of the gospel. He believed everything God told him about the gospel and his role in fulfilling it, and God honored his faith by giving him righteousness as a **guarantee (4:16)** of his salvation.

Rom. 4:3

Gal. 3:6-9,13-14,16

III. Scripture goes to great lengths to show us that there is absolutely nothing we can do in our own power (*according to the flesh*) to gain a right standing before God. We are told that *"there is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless"* (Rom. 3:10-12). The gift of righteousness received gives us his understanding, moves us to seek God and his truth, impassions us to turn to him for all things and makes us holy and righteous in his sight (Eph. 1:4).

Rom. 4:1-2, 4-5

Luke 18:10-14

Eph. 2:8-9

Rom. 4:9-17

IV. Faith is the channel but not the grounds for salvation. What is credited to us is not our faith, but the Lord's righteousness. God honors those who believe him about their need for salvation through His Son by imputing his righteousness to all who believe. ***Imputed righteousness*** mean that Jesus righteousness becomes our very own!

Rom. 4:6-8

Ps. 32:1-2

Rom. 4:18-25