

Counting on God

"How to Count on God" – Romans 3:21-4:25

April 14, 2013

Our Sermon Series

COUNTING ON GOD				
A Study of the Book of Romans				
Theme		Message	Text	Date
Righteousness of God	DOCTRINE	I'm Counting on God	1:1-17	Mar 31
CONVICTION: Righteousness Needed		Why I Need to Count on God	1:18-3:20	Apr 7
JUSTIFICATION: Righteousness Imputed		How to Count on God	3:21-4:25	Apr 14
		Counting on God for Heaven	5:1-21	Apr 21
SANCTIFICATION: Righteousness Imparted		Counting on God with My Bad Habits	6:1-23	Apr 28
		Counting on God with Myself	7:1-25	May 5
		Counting on God's Spirit	8:1-39	May 12
RESTORATION: Righteousness and Israel		Counting on God for Israel – Part 1	9:1-29	May 19
		Counting on God for Israel – Part 2	9:30-10:21	May 26
		Counting on God for Israel – Part 3	11:1-36	June 2
APPLICATION: Righteousness Practiced	PRACTICE	Counting on God through Surrender	12:1-21	June 9
		Counting on God thru Government?	13:1-14	June 16
		Counting on God in Gray Areas	14:1-15:13	June 23
		People I'm Counting on God With	15:14-16:27	June 30

Justification by Faith Explained (Romans 3:21-31)

- **Definition:** "Justification by faith is the act of God whereby He _____ the believing sinner righteous in Christ on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the cross." (Wiersbe)
- **FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (Romans 3:21-31)**
 - (1) It gives us _____ before God (3:21-24)
 - Justified = "declared righteous"
 - Warren Wiersbe: "Justification means that God declares us righteous. Justification is a legal matter. God puts the righteousness of Christ on our record in the place of our own sinfulness. And nobody can change this record."
 - (2) It is by _____ (3:24)
 - (3) It is based on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ (3:25)
 - (4) It demonstrates that God is both just and justifier (3:26)
 - Warren Wiersbe: "A God of love wants to forgive sinners, but a God of holiness must punish sin and uphold His righteous law. How can God be both 'just and the justifier'? The answer is in Jesus Christ. When Jesus suffered the wrath of God on the cross for the sins of the world, He fully met the demands of God's law and also fully expressed the love of God's heart."
 - (5) It excludes _____ (3:27-31)

Justification by Faith Illustrated (Romans 4:1-25)

1. _____ (4:6-8)
 - David was an adulterer and murderer (2 Samuel 11). Yet God forgave him of his sin and declared him righteous by faith (Psalm 32).
 - Application #1 – There is no sin that you have committed that is so bad that God cannot and will not forgive you through Jesus Christ.
 - Application #2 – Ask God for forgiveness and receive Christ into your life:

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against You, and I am sorry. I believe that You died for those sins and rose again, and I receive Your free gift of righteousness by faith. I receive You. Now make me into the person You want me to be.

 - Video: "Redeemed" [3:23] found at sermonspice.com
2. _____ (1-5,9-25)
 - a) Abraham is proof that we are not made right with God through our works but rather as a gift we receive by faith (4:1-5).
 - b) Righteousness was imputed to Abraham _____ he did the "work" of circumcision (4:9-10).
 - *logizomai* = count, reckon, impute, credit to the account of
 - John Piper: "Imputation is the act in which God counts sinners to be righteousness through their faith in Christ on the basis of Christ's perfect blood and righteousness, specifically the righteousness that Christ accomplished by His perfect obedience in life and death."
 - c) Circumcision was a _____ and seal of Abraham's salvation (4:11).
 - Our water baptism is a "sign" of our salvation and the Holy Spirit is our "seal" (guarantee) of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14).
 - Application #3 – Have you made the "sign" of your salvation by being water baptized? If not, contact Sarah Lattimer at slattimer@whatisgrace.org or 281-646-1903 x.111 to sign up for our next immersion baptism on Sunday, April 28, at 12:30pm (after 2nd service).
 - Video: "Rascal Flatts Changed" [4:24] found at YouTube
 - d) Abraham is the father of all who believe (4:11-17).
 - e) When we believe, God gives life to the dead (4:17-24). God gave life (a son) to Abraham and Sarah's "dead" bodies (infertile; too old to have children). God gives us resurrection life to our dead (in sin) bodies through our belief in Christ (4:24).

- Romans 4:20 says, “Abraham did not waver through unbelief.” Really? What about the whole Hagar thing? (Genesis 16)
 - **Age 75** – God’s original promise to Abraham to give him a son through whom will come an entire nation (Genesis 12:1-7).
 - **Age ?** – God repeats the promise. Abraham believes and God credits it to him as righteousness (Genesis 15).
 - **Age 85** – Abraham and Sarah get tired of waiting for God’s promise and take matters into their own hands. Abraham sleeps with Hagar in order to produce a child (Ishmael) through his own plan (Genesis 16).
 - **Age 99** – God repeats His original promise to Abraham and prophecies that it will happen in 1 year (Genesis 17-18).
 - **Age 100** – God fulfills His promise through the birth of Isaac who is the father of the nation of Israel (Genesis 21).
- Application #4 – Your belief does not have to be perfect to be acceptable to God! God takes mustard seed sized faith (Luke 17:6) and saves you and does great things for His glory!
- Application #5 – That being said, we can learn from Abraham and Sarah’s mistakes. Are there any ways that I am resorting to a “Hagar Solution” rather than trusting God and His promises?
- Definition of a “Hagar Solution”

A Hagar “solution” occurs when we take matters into our _____ hands using our _____ methods and our _____ timing trying to achieve our plans or what we believe are God’s plans for our lives.

- Some modern day examples of Hagar “solutions”
 - Have an affair to try to get my sexual or emotional needs met
 - Use pornography to try to get my sexual needs met
 - Get divorced to try to achieve happiness
 - Get married to try to achieve happiness
 - Lie in order to try to get my way or to try to look good
 - Go in debt in order to get what I want even though I cannot afford it
- Application #6 – In what ways is God calling me to trust Him rather than resort to my own solution?

Questions to Discuss with My Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Where do you bank and how long have you been banking there?
2. Read Romans 3:21-4:25 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with one another and pray for one another.