

“What does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and ***it was credited to him as righteousness.***’ (Gen 15:6). Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, ***to the man who does not work but trusts God*** who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.” - Rom. 4:3-5

See also John 6:28-29

“The words “it was credited to him” were not written for him alone but also for us to whom God will credit **righteousness** – for us who **believe** in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification.**” – Rom. 4:23-25

Righteousness – Right standing with God

Believe – To entrust one’s spiritual well-being

Justification – Legal declaration of full pardon



BUT WAIT, WHY CAN'T I COUNT ON MY OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Isaiah 64:6 “our righteous acts are like filthy rags”
(illustrated in Luke 15:22)

Philippians 3:1-11 “loss” “rubbish”

Rom. 3:20-26 Hence, “a righteousness from God”



BUT GOD...
THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND

Romans 5:1-11

VS. 1

Our full pardon came as a result of our faith in Jesus Christ (not our works – Eph 2:8-9)

As a result, we have peace with God. The war is over (5:10; Eph. 2:3)

Again, this peace is only through Christ (John 14:6; Eph 2:13-14; 1 Tim. 2:5)



VS. 2

This grace in which we stand confidently is
accessed only through Jesus

We didn't work to get it.

We can't work to keep it.

It will always and forever be unearned favor...



VSS. 3-5

Our sufferings for the sake of Christ are being used
by God to accomplish His purposes in our lives.

See also James 1:2-4

VSS. 6

“At just the right time” Typical of God’s work, Christ’s death was at the perfect point in history (Acts 2:23; Gal. 4:4)

Christ died for us when we were ‘powerless,’ ‘helpless,’ ‘dead in sin’ (Eph. 2:1) The dead are entirely unable to clean themselves up.

Satan loves “I’ll get to church once I clean myself up/get things in order”

VSS. 7-8

Dying for a righteous man? Not likely
Dying for a man who is truly good? I mean, maybe

“But God...” didn’t do either of those.

In a full-on demonstration of His love for us (John 3:16), Christ went to the Cross while we were still in full rebellion

Indeed, “How deep the Father’s love for us...”

GOD'S VIEW OF THOSE WHO TRUST IN CHRIST

VSS. 9-11

- We are fully pardoned by Christ's finished work on the Cross.
- We are forever saved from God's wrath. (Is. 53)
 - We are reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:11ff)
 - We are saved, and we rejoice in God!