

## Are You Blessed?

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Romans 4:7-8 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS ARE FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED; BLESSED IS THE MAN TO WHOM THE LORD SHALL NOT IMPUTE SIN."

*The supreme blessing of God's gracious forgiveness comes through faith apart from any works.*

### 1. The greatest blessing of all is to have God forgive all your sins.

- a. We must feel the burden of our guilt

A guilty conscience is a good and useful thing. It is like our pain receptors in our body that tells us there is a problem and we must do something. We must find someone to help.

*Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of the Saviour. He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope about his neck, is the man to weep for joy when he is pardoned, to hate the evil which has been forgiven him, and to live to the honour of the Redeemer by whose blood he has been cleansed.*

C.H. Spurgeon

- b. Forgiveness is the greatest of all blessings

As we look at what Paul says about forgiveness, we must look at the doctrine of Justification.

### 2. Justification means God credits Christ's righteousness

- a. Justification means God credits Christ's righteousness to the guilty sinner

In Romans 4:3 (citing Gen. 15:6) "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

- It is a judicial act of God- based on the satisfaction of God's righteous penalty by the blood of Christ

- b. Justification means God forgives all the guilty sinner's sins

- Not only does God NOT credit the sinner's sins to his account

- God DOES credit the very righteousness of Christ

Paul used 3 somewhat synonymous phrases to emphasize the point:

- i. Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven – vs 7a. This word “forgiven” means to “send away.”
- ii. Whose sins are covered – vs. 7b. This word is only used here in NT! Referring to the OT practice of putting the blood on the mercy seat- covering it’
- iii. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin – He wipes the slate clean – no condemnation to those in Christ (Romans 8:1)

c. Justification means God credits Christ’s righteousness to the guilty sinner and forgives all his sins ***apart from any good works*** – Rom. 4:6

- If apart from works, then how is it done? – vs. 5. By Faith

### 3. To Receive this Blessing, we must Cease from our Works and Believe in God’s Provision

#### Questions:

1. What does the world, and even many Christians, think it means to be blessed by God?
2. What are the three synonymous phrases Paul uses to describe God taking our sins away? How are they different and/or the same?
3. Describe in your words what justification means. Why is this such an important doctrine?

**Prayer:** *“Father, I could never understand why you would choose to impute the righteousness of Christ on my behalf and not hold my sins against me at your righteous judgment. However, in awe I thank you for your gracious, free gift of salvation. Thank you for saving me. Thank you for justifying me. Help me to live the rest of my life for you in light of these things, in Jesus’ precious name, amen!”*