



## Romans 4

That's Not Fair...Or is it? | March 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Warm-up:** On Sunday George shared a common idea people have about Heaven: “It’s a good place with a good God and good people go there.” Do you find this idea has traction in our culture? How can you tell?

- Read Romans 4 aloud. What verse or verses impact you most in this chapter?
  - According to v. 4, how is a person justified? (Made right with God)
  - Why does this section drive it all home?
  
- To your knowledge what do other world religions teach about salvation? (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Mormonism, etc.) Contrast this to Christianity and specifically what Romans 4:3 says about how a person is justified (made right with God)?
  
- Dallas Willard famously said that “grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude and effort is an action.” Grace simply means, undeserved favor.
  - Read **1 Corinthians 15:10** aloud. “Special favor” in the NLT can be translated, *grace*. How does Paul see the relationship between “grace” and “effort” working?
  - Paul “worked harder” than many due to the grace poured out upon him. In what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit is calling you to work hard for Christ in this season of your life?
  
- As believers in Jesus Christ we are not working **FOR** salvation, we are working **FROM** it.
  - From this understanding, unpack **2 Peter 1:10-11** as well as **James 2:20-23** together. What is being taught here in these passages?

**Wrap-up:** The word “counted him,” means “imputed” and it was used in a financial and legal setting meaning, to take something that belongs to someone and credit it to another. It is a one-sided transaction—Abraham did nothing to accumulate it: God simply credited it to him. God took his own righteousness and credited it to Abraham. In closing, praise God for aspects of His unmerited favor that you are *most* thankful for today.