

Romans

Bible Class 3
Justified By Faith
Romans 3:21-4:25

The World Is Condemned By Sin

1. The Gentiles have sinned Rom 1:18-32
2. The Jews have sinned Rom 2:1-3:8
3. All have sinned Rom 3:9-20

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Introduction

- We concluded the last lesson with the point that no one can be justified before God by flawless law keeping
- That being true, how can God justify (free from guilt) man without violating His own law?
- How can He justify man without seeming that He is soft against sin?

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Introduction

- God's law demands the penalty of death
- How can God be just, exercising His wrath against sin, and be merciful, providing forgiveness to sinners?
- The answer is found in Jesus whom God set forth paying the penalty for sin but providing mercy to all who would have faith (trusting obedient belief) in His perfect sacrifice for sins

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Introduction

- If we are saved by faith and not perfect law keeping, then are we bound to obey any law before God?
- And, how does Abraham provide us with an example of one who was justified by faith and not flawless obedience to God's law?
- What are the implications for how Jews and Gentiles are saved By Jesus?

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Justified By Faith

1. Justified by faith in Jesus Rom 3:21-31
2. Abraham was justified by faith Rom 4

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God's Righteousness Apart From The Law Witnessed By The Law and The Prophets

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

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Man Is Condemned By Law Alone

1. Rom 3:19-20
2. Gal 3:18-25

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God's Righteousness Witnessed By The Law and The Prophets

1. Gen 3:15
2. Gen 22:18
3. Psa 132:10-11
4. Hab 2:4
5. Isa 53:3-7
6. Jer 31:31-34
7. Heb 9:8-14

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God's Righteousness Through Faith In Jesus For All Who Believe For All Sinned

Rom 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;
Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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God's Righteousness Through Faith In Jesus For All Who Believe For All Sinned

- Since all have sinned, God's righteousness (His gospel, plan of making men righteous) must be based on faith in Jesus, not on perfect law keeping
- The same plan of making men right is for both Jew and Gentile since all are sinners, equally in need of salvation
- This faith must be a living, trusting obedient faith

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Faith In Jesus Must Be Obedient To God

1. Rom 1:5
2. Rom 16:26
3. Heb 5:8-9

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Justified As A Gift By Grace Through Redemption In Jesus

Rom 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

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Some Terms Defined

1. Justified – declared not guilty, righteous before God, due to God’s gracious forgiveness of our sins through Jesus
2. Grace – God’s unmerited favor
3. Redemption – deliverance from bondage by payment of a ransom price
4. Propitiation – an offering given to appease, God offered the blood of Jesus to appease (satisfy) for man’s sins
5. Faith – trusting obedient belief in God, Jesus’ shed blood providing forgiveness ¹⁴

Justified As A Gift By Grace Through Redemption In Jesus

- Justification through faith in Jesus’ redeeming blood originates and is completed by God’s grace, not because of our perfect law keeping, our inherent goodness or good works we have done
- We are freed from sin through His blood, the price of sin that satisfies God’s justice and provides His mercy to all who have faith in Jesus, believing, obedient trust in His blood to forgive our sins ¹⁵

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Justified As A Gift By Grace Through Redemption In Jesus

- Faith in Jesus is completely man’s part that includes whatever conditions God commands in order to receive His gracious gift of salvation through Jesus’ blood ¹⁶

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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith

1. Eph 2:1-16

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Jesus’ Blood Shed To Redeem Us – Forgive Us of Sins

1. Lev 17:11
2. Mat 26:28, 32
3. Mat 20:28
4. Eph 1:7
5. Act 20:28
6. 1Pe 1:18-21

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God Can Be Just and Merciful To All Who Have Faith In Jesus His Perfect Sin Offering

Rom 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;
Rom 3:26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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God Can Be Just and Merciful To All Who Have Faith In Jesus His Perfect Sin Offering

(Rom 3:25 ASV) whom God set forth *to be* a propitiation, through faith, in his blood, to show his righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime, in the forbearance of God;
(Rom 3:26 ASV) for the showing, *I say*, of his righteousness at this present season: that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus.

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God Can Be Just and Merciful To All Who Have Faith In Jesus His Perfect Sin Offering

- Divine justice required the punishment for all sin
- Before Jesus' death, God had passed over the sins previously committed by men, not immediately punishing sin with death
- His promise of a perfect sacrifice for sins would be fulfilled in Jesus, not by the animal sacrifices which only pointed to the need of a future savior

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God Can Be Just and Merciful To All Who Have Faith In Jesus His Perfect Sin Offering

- Through Jesus' perfect sacrifice, God remains just because the penalty for sins has been paid, Jesus dying for sinners
- And, God, through Jesus, can be merciful cleansing by His blood all who have faith in Jesus

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In View of Jesus' Future Perfect Sacrifice, God Passed Over Man's Sins

1. Heb 9:13-22

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Jesus The Perfect Sin Offering Offered For Our Sins

1. Heb 2:17-18
2. 1Jo 2:1-2
3. 1Jo 4:9-10

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We Are Justified By God As We Trust In Jesus' Blood To Forgive us of Sins

1. Rom 6:3-4
2. Act 22:16
3. Act 2:36-38
4. Act 17:30-31
5. 1Co 6:9-11
6. Act 8:21-22
7. 1Jo 1:7-9
8. Rev 12:10-11

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Boasting Excluded Because We Are Justified By Faith Not Flawless Law Keeping

Rom 3:27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

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Boasting Excluded Because We Are Justified By Faith Not Flawless Law Keeping

- Paul is contrasting being justified by a law of faith instead of a law of works
- A law of works would require perfect law keeping to be justified
- The law of faith, the gospel, requires faith in Jesus who provided the perfect sacrifice for us to be forgiven of our sins

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Boasting Excluded Because We Are Justified By Faith Not Flawless Law Keeping

- In verse 28, Paul is not affirming that faith in Jesus is not obedient to God, must not work by trustingly submitting to His Word
- Therefore, Paul is not contrasting faith with works of faith but perfect law keeping with faith in Jesus
- The false teaching of faith only has deceived many into thinking that faith must be stripped of all conditions of obedience so it will not nullify the grace of God

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Boasting Excluded Because We Are Justified By Faith Not Flawless Law Keeping

- False belief – you are saved by the sinner's prayers without any further obedience
- All obedience to God to be saved and live as a Christian must be based on a belief and trust in Jesus to save us
- We can never boast of earning our salvation because it is dependent on Jesus dying for our sins so that we might be forgiven of sins through our faith in Him₂₉

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Boasting Excluded Because We Are Justified By Faith Not Flawless Law Keeping

1. 1Co 1:21-31

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We Are Justified By A Trusting Obedient Working Faith In Jesus

- Many today insist that since we cannot be justified by works but only faith, sinner's prayer, then there are no more conditions of obedience in becoming a Christian
- If there are, then salvation is not by grace but we are earning it by works
- The Judaizers in Paul's day were adding conditions of salvation while the faith only folks are both adding and subtracting conditions of salvation

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We Are Justified By A Trusting Obedient Working Faith In Jesus

- They add the sinner's prayer to become a Christian and subtract baptism for forgiveness of sins
- In other words, we are saved by faith only, sinner's prayer, which excludes obedience

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We Are Justified By A Trusting Obedient Working Faith In Jesus

- Paul says we cannot be justified by perfect law keeping but by faith, a faith that believes and trusts in Jesus enough to obey whatever God says we must do to be saved
- Each condition of pardon is connected to a trusting faith in Jesus who died for our sins, whom God raised from the dead

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We Are Justified By A Trusting Obedient Working Faith In Jesus

1. Rom 1:5
2. Joh 6:29
3. Jas 2:21-24
4. Joh 3:16
5. Act 20:21
6. Rom 10:9-10
7. Mar 16:16
8. Col 2:12
9. Act 22:16

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God Is The God Of Jews and Gentiles Justifying All By Faith

Rom 3:29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,

Rom 3:30 since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

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Justification By Faith Established The Law

Rom 3:31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

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Justification By Faith Established The Law

1. Rom 8:1-4
2. Rom 6:14-19

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Abraham Was Justified By Faith

- To the Jewish Christians that wrongly believed and taught justification by perfect law keeping, making circumcision and the Law of Moses mandatory for all to be saved, Paul appeals to Abraham as an example of one who was justified by faith
- The Jews revered Abraham as their spiritual father but wrongly believed he was justified by perfect law keeping

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Abraham Was Justified By Faith

- Paul demonstrates from the Old Testament Scriptures that Abraham was justified by his faith in a just and merciful God not by perfect law keeping
- God counted his faith for righteousness, forgiveness of sins, before he was circumcised

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Abraham Was Justified By Faith

- Since Abraham was justified by faith before circumcision, he is the father of faith for both Jews and Gentiles to be justified by faith in Jesus

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The Jews Boasted In Abraham Who Was Not Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

Rom 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

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The Jews Boasted In Abraham Who Was Not Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

- The Jews took great pride in Abraham as their physical and spiritual father
- But, they wrongly believed Abraham was justified by perfect law keeping
- The works Paul affirms that neither Abraham nor we can be justified by are works of law perfectly done
- Therefore justification is owed to us by God not graciously given to condemned sinners

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The Jews Boasted In Abraham Who Was Not Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

1. Mat 3:5-11
2. Luk 18:9-14
3. Act 15:1-2
4. Php 3:2-5
5. Rom 3:20, 27-28

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Rom 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

(Rom 4:3 NKJV) For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

(Rom 4:4 NKJV) Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

(Rom 4:5 NKJV) But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

Gen 15:2 Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."

Gen 15:4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

Gen 15:5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Gen 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (Gen 15:6 NKJV) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

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Abraham Like David Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

Rom 4:6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

Rom 4:7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

Rom 4:8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

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Abraham Like David Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

1. Psa 32:1-5

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Abraham Like David Was Justified By Grace Through Faith In The Just and Merciful God

- Abraham was a sinner who believed in God to forgive him of His sins
- His belief was a trusting obedient belief in whatever God told him to do
- His faith was credited or accounted to him by God for righteousness
- By his faith, God forgave him of sins, declared him not guilty, righteous

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No Imputed Perfect Life of Christ But God Counts Our Faith For Righteousness

- Like Abraham, our faith, trusting obedient belief in God to forgive us of our sins through Jesus, is imputed or accounted to us for righteousness
- Through Jesus, His perfect sacrifice, God forgives us of our sins

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No Imputed Perfect Life of Christ But God Counts Our Faith For Righteousness

- Through His high priesthood in Heaven, He intercedes for us, forgiving us of our sins as we trust in Him through obedient faith
- It is a false teaching to believe Jesus' perfect righteous life is accounted to us

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No Imputed Perfect Life of Christ But God Counts Our Faith For Righteousness

1. 2Co 5:21
2. 1Jo 3:7
3. Rom 4:23-25
4. Act 2:36-38
5. Heb 7:25-28
6. 1Jo 1:7-9

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through A Trusting Working Obedient Faith In God

- There is no conflict between James and Paul
- Paul taught that no one can be justified by perfect law keeping but only by faith in Jesus
- Paul argues that works without faith will not justify while James argues that faith without works will not justify

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through A Trusting Working Obedient Faith In God

- Abraham was justified without works of law but with works of faith
- Even before Gen 15 and after, throughout his relationship with God, Abraham had always been justified by a trusting obedient faith in the just and merciful God
- As we have noted earlier, we too must be justified by a continual trusting working faith in the just and merciful God

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Abraham Was Justified By Grace Through A Trusting Working Obedient Faith In God

1. Jas 2:20-24
2. Gen 22:9-18
3. Gal 3:6-9
4. Gen 15:6
5. Gen 12:1-4, 7
6. Rom 4:17-22
7. Gen 15:6
8. Gen 17:1-5, 10-16, 24-27

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Abraham The Father of Faith For Both Jews and Gentiles

Rom 4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

(Rom 4:9 NKJV) Does this blessedness then *come* upon the circumcised *only*, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.

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Abraham The Father of Faith For Both Jews and Gentiles

Rom 4:10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; Rom 4:11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

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Abraham The Father of Faith For Both Jews and Gentiles

Rom 4:12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

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Abraham Believed Hoped In Trusted and Obeyed The Faithful Powerful God

Rom 4:13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Rom 4:14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;

Rom 4:15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

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Abraham Believed Hoped In Trusted and Obeyed The Faithful Powerful God

Rom 4:16 For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

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Abraham Believed Hoped In Trusted and Obeyed The Faithful Powerful God

Rom 4:17 (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

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Abraham Believed Hoped In Trusted and Obeyed The Faithful Powerful God

Rom 4:18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

Rom 4:19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;

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Abraham Believed Hoped In Trusted and Obeyed The Faithful Powerful God

Rom 4:20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

Rom 4:21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Rom 4:22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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Abraham Believed Hoped In Trusted and Obeyed The Faithful Powerful God

1. Gen 17
2. Gen 21:1-8

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Our Faith Must Be A Believing Trusting Hopeful Obedient Faith Like Abraham

Rom 4:23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,
Rom 4:24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
Rom 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

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Our Faith Must Be A Believing Trusting Hopeful Obedient Faith Like Abraham

1. Eph 2:4-10
2. Rom 6:3-4
3. Gal 3:26-29

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Justified By Faith

1. Justified by faith in Jesus Rom 3:21-31
2. Abraham was justified by faith Rom 4

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