

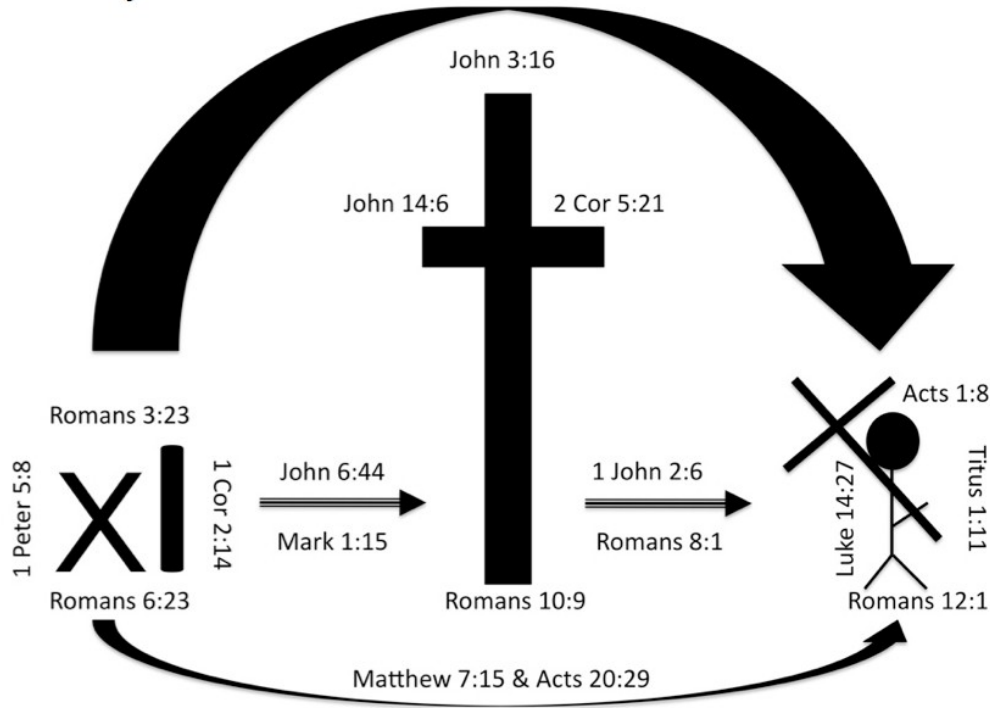
“Why Me?”
Romans 4:1-17

Intro: (LAST WEEK): Romans 3:21-31 (New Living Trans)

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him... 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes... God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins... 28 So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law... 30 There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles...

Gospel: Truth-in-Love

Matthew 7:21-23

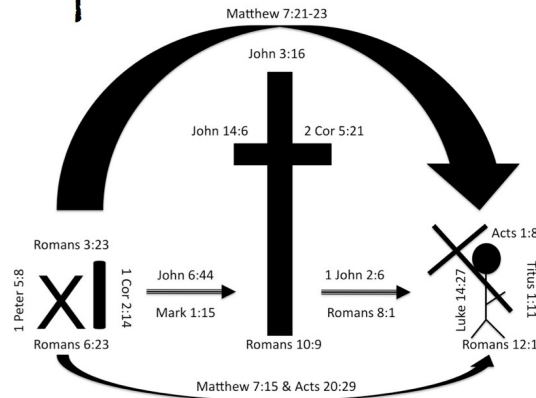


Read: 1 Corinthians 14:33... God is a God of order/design.

GRACE ----- MERCY ----- GRACE!

“Why Me?” Romans 4:1-17 (N.L.T.)

Gospel: Truth-in-Love



I. Abraham Was Not Justified by Works (4:1-2)

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? **2** If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.

Ephesians 2:8-9 --- Look at “order”

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

II. Abraham Was Justified by Faith (4:3-5)

3 For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” **4** When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. **5** But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

*** VIDEO: Francis Chan – “Biblical Belief”

2 Peter 1:3-4 = His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

III. Justification Brings Blessing (4:6-8)

6 David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: **7** “Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”

Ephesians 4:11-15 = It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12** to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

IV. Abraham Was Not Justified by Circumcision (4:9-12)

9 Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. **10** But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!

11 Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. **12** And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.

V. Abraham Was Not Justified by the Law (4:13-15)

13 Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. **14** If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. **15** For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

VI. Abraham Was Justified by God's Grace (4:16-17)

16 So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. **17** That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in **the God who brings the dead back to life** and who creates new things out of nothing.

God's divine order is evident throughout history & humanity...
For the biblical believer, the "real" Christian... God's order is:
Grace..... Mercy..... Grace

For everyone else that rejects the Gospel of Jesus Christ....
Grace..... Mercy..... Wrath

Read your Bible and look at the consistency of God's "order" in the following handful of references... Christianity is eternally consistent!

Read: Romans 8:29-31

Read: Deut. 7:6-8

Read: Matthew 18

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6

Read: Psalm 40:3 and following

Read: James 3:14-15

Read: Psalm 86:11-13

Read: Genesis 1:1

Read: Romans 1:1

Read: 2 Peter 1:1

Read: James 2:23

Read: Colossians 3:14

Read: John 8:32

Read: Romans 10:9

Read: Isaiah 53:5

Read: Jeremiah 17:7

***** VIDEO: "Clayton McDonald Testimony"**