

DISCUSSION GUIDE: ROMANS 4:22-25

July 2, 2017

As we finish Romans 4, Paul finishes his defense of justification by faith alone and reminds us that salvation is offered to all who believe in Jesus.

1. In verse 22, Paul concludes his arguments from the Old Testament that support justification by faith alone.

—Go back and read all of Romans 4. Discuss the different reasons Paul gives that justification is by faith alone.

—People are often tempted to think that salvation was by works in the Old Testament and by faith in the New Testament. What does Paul say about salvation in the Old Testament? What are some faulty ways that people depict the "two Gods of the Old and New Testament"?

—Another powerful truth in verse 22 is that our faith is counted to us as righteousness. Do you have a hard time believing that Christ's work not only brings forgiveness but makes us righteous? How does the truth that God gives us His righteousness affect the way we live? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:21)

—Discuss different ways that we can remind each other we are justified solely by faith in Christ.

2. In verses 23-24, Paul says this truth of justification is not just for Abraham's sake, but for all who believe.

—The Jews were tempted to think that their justification was connected to their descent from Abraham. How do American Christians fall into similar traps?

—What are other things that you look to that "validate" your faith, instead of looking to Christ alone?

3. Paul makes an interesting statement in verse 25, saying that Jesus was "delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

—Jesus's work on the cross is vital, but why is His resurrection connected to our justification?

—Spend some time in prayer thanking God for offering us salvation in Christ.