

SERMON NOTES

Date: February 21, 2016

Title: Justification by Grace, Not Law

Text: Romans 4:8-17

Big Idea: By following in the footsteps of Abraham's faith we can discover how we can truly become righteous in God's sight.

I. Introduction

II. Two Reasons Why Justification Is By Grace, Not Law

A. Abraham was justified before the law was given. (vs. 9-11)

B. Justification by the law nullifies faith and voids God's promises. (vs. 13-15)

III. Conclusion (vs. 16-17)

1. Think of the people you know (or have observed) from various religious faiths. What are some of the different prescriptions they follow in their attempts to please God or find eternal life?

What's the problem with trying to *do* things in order to earn favor with God?

2. What is the purpose of Jewish circumcision and how was it distorted? (v. 11)
3. What outward signs of faith might believers today distort to become objects of faith?
4. Why is it impossible to be saved by faith plus works of the law?
5. What is the purpose or effect of God's law? (vs. 13-15)
6. How would your life be different today if you knew that you had to work your way to heaven?
7. How should your life be different today knowing that you can't work your way to heaven, but must believe in God's gracious promises in the gospel?
8. Go outside on a clear night and look into the starlit sky. Consider Abraham and the fact that one star he saw was lit for you. (Genesis 15:5-6) Sit in wonder and worship the Lord!