

INSIGHTS ON ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A FIVE-LETTER WORD

ROMANS 4:1–13



The Heart of the Matter

After dedicating almost three chapters of his letter to the Romans to setting forth humanity's need for the gospel (1:18–3:20), Paul moved on with the words, "But now . . ." (3:21). In the rest of the third chapter, he presented the great truths regarding how one can have right standing before God—how a sinner can be "justified." Having made it clear that righteousness is a matter of faith, not works, Paul chose to illustrate his point with a flesh-and-blood example: Abraham. By showing the reader that "the father of the Jews" was declared righteous by faith and not by works, Paul made a compelling argument that all can understand.



Discovering the Way

1. Let's Take Abraham (Romans 4:1–3)

Abraham's good works were the result of, not the means to, his good standing before God.

2. Let's Be Clear (Romans 4:4–8)

Paul clarified justification, observing that working earns a wage, while believing brings a gift.

3. Let's Probe Deeper (Romans 4:9–13)

None of our deeds help make us right with God—not even circumcision or following the Law.

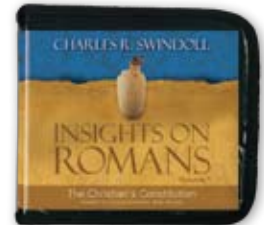


Starting Your Journey

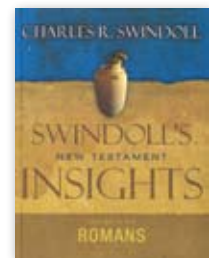
Righteousness is indeed a five-letter word—*faith*.



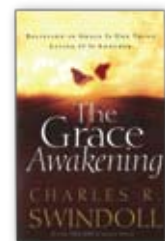
Tools for Digging Deeper



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