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A Backstory Worth Believing  
Romans 4:1-9

What is one of the best backstories you've ever heard?

Do you have a difficult time believing you are justified (made right) with God by grace, through faith?

Two backstories to grace:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**A Backstory Worth Believing:**

**I. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ makes the best story.**

Romans 4:1-3 *What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup>If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup>What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

- What did Abraham discover?
- How was Abraham justified?
  - Not by \_\_\_\_\_
  - But by \_\_\_\_\_
- v.3 *logizomai*--

**II. A life received \_\_\_\_\_ makes the best story.**

Romans 4:4-5 *Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.*

- v.4 received as a \_\_\_\_\_ not a \_\_\_\_\_
- v.5 recognize you don't \_\_\_\_\_

**III. A life lived \_\_\_\_\_ makes the best story.**

Romans 4:6-9 *David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup>Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." <sup>9</sup>Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.*

- *What happens to sin?*  
It's \_\_\_\_\_ (v.7a)  
It's \_\_\_\_\_ (v.7b)  
It's \_\_\_\_\_

**Point:**

**Doggy Bag: Some questions to take home and chew on.**

1. What do you wrestle with the most about Jesus and justification through faith?
2. What things, people, and accomplishments have you trusted in to make your life story the best? How have they already failed you?
3. Is faith in Christ part of your story?
4. Do you see life as something you deserve or as a gift from God? How have you attempted to make yourself "good enough?"
5. Is grace a part of your story? What difference could it make?
6. What story are you writing with your life today that will become your backstory tomorrow?



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email [krisbeckert@thevineva.org](mailto:krisbeckert@thevineva.org)/ call 215.237.4959 to set up an appointment.