



“The Glory of Imputation”

Romans 4:18-25

I. THE MESSAGE OF IMPUTATION

- a) The Nature of Imputation
- b) The Necessity of Imputation

II. The Means of Imputation

- a) The Divine Object of Faith
- b) The Definitive Object of Faith

III. The Method of Imputation

- a) Who God Delivered
- b) What God Declared

Introduction:

There has been much talk through the years about the “Big questions” of life. The biggest of them all is: How can sinful man be right with Holy God? The answer is found in an old Bible word: Imputation! In Romans 4, Paul explores this great doctrine extensively. May God grant us grace to do so together. Consider...

I. The Message of Imputation (vv.18-22)

The Message of Imputation is seen by making two observations. To understand we need to see *the Nature of Imputation* (vv. 1-3). Imputation comes from a word that means to reckon or to count (v 1-3). It is an accounting term. To have righteousness imputed to us is to be reckoned righteous. Secondly, to understand the message of imputation, we need to see *the Necessity of Imputation*. Imputation is the only way that man can ever be righteous before God. That is because man has no righteousness of his own. Nor can he obtain any by his works. George Whitefield once said, “Works? Works? A man get to Heaven by works? I would as soon think of climbing to the moon on a rope of sand!”

II. The Means of Imputation

The scriptures are clear: righteousness is imputed by faith alone! (vv. 4-5) In order for us to understand the nature of saving faith, we need to consider *the Divine Object of Faith* (v.23-24). Our faith must be in God, but



not just any God. Herein we see also *the Definitive Object of Faith*. ^{vve} must have faith in the God who “raised up our Lord Jesus from the dead” and all that resurrection entails. To believe in God and not believe in the resurrection is to have faith in a false God. The God that saves is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3).

III. The Method of Imputation

How is this brought about? What basis does God have to reckon sinners righteous? The answer to that all-important question is found in *Who God Delivered* (v. 25). Paul said that Christ was “Delivered” for our offenses. Literally, He was given up, yielded up by God for offenses that He did not commit. They were our offenses, and yet by grace God gave His Son to die for them! Secondly, notice also *What God Declared*. Paul said that Christ was “raised for our justification.” By raising Jesus from the dead, God was declaring himself to be fully satisfied with the perfect life and substitutionary death of His Son. The resurrection was God’s telelestai (It is finished)! God demonstrated in the resurrection that he was pleased with Christ and rejected anything less than Him.

Conclusion:

18 years ago, on Easter Sunday, 2004, God saved me. That morning, the Holy Ghost sought me, convicted me and granted me repentance and faith. The moment I exercised faith in Christ, His perfect righteousness was imputed unto me, and I was justified before God. He’ll do that for you too, on the basis of Christ’s redemptive work and through the means of saving faith.