



Faith > Religion

By Derek Kiser on June 7, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 4

There has always been a struggle for people to follow a religion rather than have a relationship with Christ. Religion is a to-do list, and we are used to lists. Tell me what I have to do and I will do it, check the item off and then go to my next task. The Jewish religion, the Catholic religion and most world religions are a to-do list given by a religious leader. Romans 4 shows the difference of Christianity from all other religions including Judaism, the religion it is addressing. Romans 4:16 puts it this way, *"That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring--not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all."*

Just like in Abraham's day, access to God has always been through faith. It is not a list of things to do and not do. Christ did the work. In verse 3 of Romans 4 it says, *"Abraham believed in God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."* My faith and your faith in Christ is what saves us in the same way Abraham's faith in God saved him. It is so easy to fall back into a works-based mentality even after we are saved. The truth is I cannot earn my salvation and I cannot lose it. I have to be reminded of that daily so I do not slip back into thinking I have to somehow earn God's favor. Today, rest in your faith in Christ and know we have access to God through Christ and will celebrate forever in Heaven because of what Christ did on our behalf.

PRAYER: God, help me daily to remember Christ has paid for my sins and I can rest in that finished work. God, help me continue in the faith that You first put in me when I believed.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 5

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