

If all the world lives under condemnation, and if no sinner can be declared righteous by means of the Law, then again we must ask the question, Is there NO HOPE for lost mankind?

Paul gives the answer to this question in the second major section of the epistle, found in Romans 3: 21-5:21. This section deals with God's justification of some unrighteous human beings through Christ, and rather neatly divides into four segments.

The first segment (Romans 3: 21-31) is the heart of the gospel: how God can declare righteous those who are unrighteous, but who nevertheless come to trust in Christ and His redemption for salvation from their sin and its consequences. This is the Doctrine of justification by Faith.

The second segment (Romans 4: 1-25) provides us with an example of justification by faith- Abraham- who was declared righteous, not on the basis of a righteousness that came from himself, through the keeping of the Law of God, but on the basis of a righteousness that came from God, through faith in God and His Salvation.

The third segment (Romans 5: 1-11) details a number of the blessings that accompany justification by faith.

And the fourth segment (Romans 5: 12-21) presents a sustained parallel, comparing and contrasting the condemnation which comes to those who are in Adam, and the justification which comes to those who are in Christ.

Let us look at each of these segments, some more fully and some more briefly, and let us attempt to answer the question, **How can unrighteous human beings become righteous before God?**