

declared righteous by faith is said to involve the crediting of righteousness to the believer, specifically the righteousness of Christ.

Being declared righteous by human works would involve a payment that is earned and merited and owed, and this in turn could lead to human boasting. It would make faith of no value, make God's promise worthless, and lead to wrath.

Being declared righteous by faith does not involve any human payment or merit. It is not earned by or owed to human beings, and allows no room for boasting. It is a gift of God's grace, and brings assurance.

Abraham was declared righteous by faith, not by works. Those who are his spiritual children are also declared righteous by faith, not by works.

Galatians 3:10-12 says basically the same thing:

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."

Were Old Testament believers saved by faith plus good works?

In Romans 11:4-6, Paul mentions the godly remnant in the days of Elijah and then says: "So too, at the present time, there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace."

Old Testament believers were saved by grace through faith. The principles of grace and works cannot be mixed without mutual destruction!

Does this mean that Old Testament believers who were saved by grace through faith were not obligated to obey the will of God? On the contrary, they were obligated to love God with all their heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love their fellow human beings as themselves. Their obedience to God's commands demonstrated and expressed their love for Him. However, their salvation was not dependent on their obedience; otherwise good works would be added to and mixed with grace, and grace would be destroyed!

This brings us to our fourth and final question: