

Title: Making The Grade- Romans 4 1-9

Read:

¹⁻³ So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? If Abraham, by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and that was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own."
⁴⁻⁵ If you're a hard worker and do a good job, you deserve your pay; we don't call your wages a gift. But if you see that the job is too big for you, that it's something only God can do, and you trust him to do it—you could never do it for yourself no matter how hard and long you worked—well, that trusting-him-to-do-it is what gets you set right with God, by God. Sheer gift. ⁶⁻⁹ David confirms this way of looking at it, saying that the one who trusts God to do the putting-everything-right without insisting on having a say in it is one fortunate man: Fortunate those whose crimes are carted off, whose sins are wiped clean from the slate. Fortunate the person against whom the Lord does not keep score. Do you think for a minute that this blessing is only pronounced over those of us who keep our religious ways and are circumcised? Or do you think it possible that the blessing could be given to those who never even heard of our ways, who were never brought up in the disciplines of God? We all agree, don't we, that it was by embracing what God did for him that Abraham was declared fit before God?

Think:

Are you feeling particularly Holy today? Maybe you went to Church on Sunday. Hey you are even listening to an aftershock dev. Yep we are the chosen people aren't we? But that's not the point is it. Do we get to heaven by going to Church? Do we get to heaven by reading the Bible? No we do not. It's not all about what we do is it? It is all about what Jesus did on the cross. If it was all about how good we were then we might be in trouble. One day you might make friends with some lonely guy at school, and you would feel pretty good about yourself knowing you were heading for Heaven. But what happens the next day when you lose your rag with your mates because they upset you? Where does that leave you and Heaven now? No if spending forever partying with God was based around what we did then I am guessing that God would end up being pretty lonely in Heaven. I am just forever grateful that we become good enough to make the grade in Heaven because of what Jesus did for us dyeing on the cross, not what we do

Pray:

Lord thank you are so incredibly pure that we could never make the grade without Jesus. Thanks for sending him to die for me. Amen.

Action:

Is there someone you know who is trying to earn their way into Heaven? Pray for them that they will know Jesus has already done that. Bye.