





be

eager

to do good works

Titus 2:14

Works...

*“For **by works of the law no human being will be justified** in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Rom. 3:20)*

*“You see that **a person is justified by works** and not by faith alone.” (James 2:24)*

- How do approach this apparent “contradiction”?

What

About

WORKS?

Paul says... in Rom. 4

2 For if Abraham was **justified by works**, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham **believed God**, and **it** was counted to him as righteousness.”

4 Now to the one who works, his **wages** are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his **faith is counted as righteousness**,

6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom **God counts righteousness apart from works...**

Paul says... in Gal. 3

10 For all who **rely on works of the law** are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who **does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and **do them**”**

11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

12 But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who **does them** shall live by them.”

Paul says... in Eph. 2

“For *by grace you have been saved through faith.* And this is not your own doing; **it** is the gift of God, *not a result of works,* so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)

- By God’s **grace**, He **saves** us... through our **faith** (Rom. 5:1)
- His offer of salvation through faith is “***the gift of God***”
- Our salvation is **not a result of our works**...
- **Works** is not the **basis** for our salvation

James says...

“You see that a person is **justified** **by works** and **not by faith alone.**” (James 2:24)

- **Justified** – “counted as righteous” (cf. **Rom. 4:3-5**)
- “**not by faith alone**” means by faith, but not by faith only
- “**by works**” means works also play a part – our works compliment our faith – so then...
- “**works**” are a **component** of our justification by faith

Paul says...

- Works is not the basis for our salvation

James says...

- “works” are a component of our justification

Therefore...

- “Works” doesn’t always mean the same thing
- “Works” \neq “works”
- “WORKS” \neq “works”

"WORKS" ≠ "works"

What Paul is
talking about

- 1. WORKS** – A **system** of deeds or actions by which an individual on a basis of perfect law keeping could earn justification and obligate God to reckon him righteous as a wage or debt.
 - (i.e. "*works of the Law*" - **Rom. 3:20**)

What James is
talking about

- 2. works** – deeds or actions
 - ("*their works do follow them*" - **Rev. 14:13**)

So, When Paul says...

“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight.” (Rom. 3:20)

- He is saying a system of **WORKS** cannot be the basis upon which any human being will be justified
- He is not saying that **works** are not required to be counted righteous

Justification

~~WORKS~~ (3:20)

Basis

Faith "Alone"



Component
Level



- Works of law that would “earn” righteousness as a “debt” or “wage”
- Would require perfect law keeping
- “by works of law no flesh will be justified” (3:20)
- “but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law.” (9:31-32)
- “man is not justified by the works of the law” Gal. 2:16

- “obedience of faith” (1:5; 16:26)
 - “according to his deeds” (2:6-10)
 - “do... the things of the law” (2:14)
 - “we establish the law” (3:31)
- “...you obeyed...that form of doctrine” (6:17)
- “spiritual service” Rom 12ff
 - Function, teach, give, lead, diligence, distributing to needs, hospitality, etc.
- “...being fruitful in every good work” Col 1:10
- “...may God...establish you in every good work” 2 Thess 2:17
- “...be rich in good works” 1 Tim 6:18
- “...zealous of good works” Titus 2:14
- “...created in Christ Jesus unto good works” Eph 2:10
- “...by your good works, which they shall see” 2 Pet 2:12
- “...provoke one another unto love and good works” Heb 10:24
- “...faith without works is dead” James 2:26

Consider Abraham again...

James 2:21-24

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Consider Abraham again...

James 2:21-24

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“WORKS” ≠ “works”

- Paul dismissed a system of “WORKS” as the basis upon which we can be counted righteous by God
 - Freeing us from the curse of perfect law keeping
- Paul said nothing that minimizes or negates “works” as a necessary demonstration of our faith

*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only **faith working** through love”*

-Gal. 5:6

TANGENT

- **A Potential Problem**

- We should acknowledge it
- Not what Paul is talking about!!
- Trying to force it into the teaching in Romans clouds the picture

WARNING: The following discussion, while important, is not directly related to the study of Romans. It concerns another potential misunderstanding of “works” and the resulting lack of assurance in our hope.

Justification

~~WORKS~~ (3:20)

Basis

Faith (1:17)

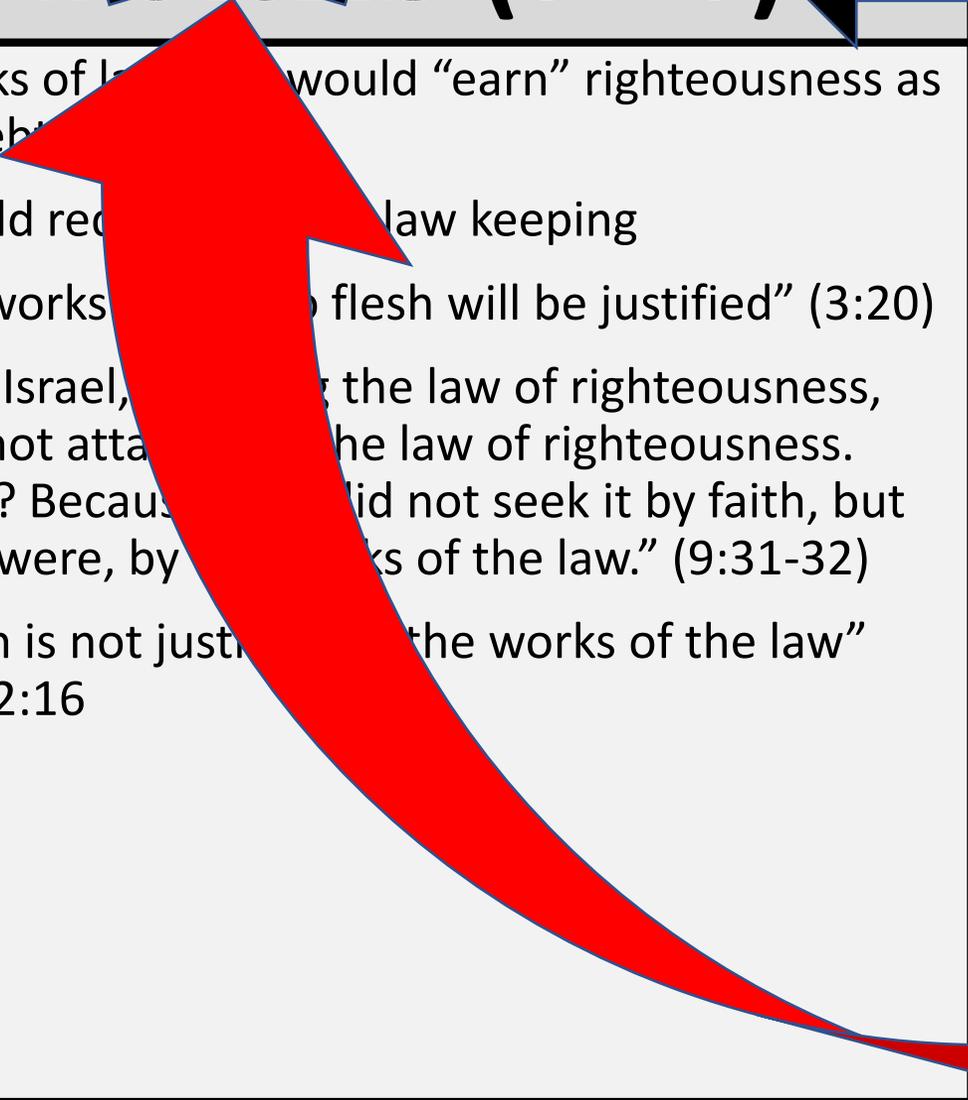


Component

If we think, feel, or live like we have to do “enough” of these “works”, so that God will find us righteous...
 Then we are counting on our efforts to justify us.
 Then we turn “works” into **“WORKS”**

- Works of law would “earn” righteousness as a “debt”
- Would require perfect law keeping
- “by works of law no flesh will be justified” (3:20)
- “but Israel, who had the law of righteousness, has not attained the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by works of the law.” (9:31-32)
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- “obedience of faith” (1:5; 16:26)
- “...will find us righteous...”
- “...Then we are counting on our efforts to justify us.”
- “...Then we turn “works” into **“WORKS”**”
- “...may God...establish you in every... 2 Thess 2:17
- “...be rich in good works” 1 Tim 6
- “...zealous of good works” Titus
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- Paul dismissed a system of **“WORKS”** as the basis upon which we can be counted righteous by God
 - Freeing us from the curse of perfect law keeping

Paul says...

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result **WORKS**, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)*

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good **works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)*



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