

### God's Faithfulness to His Own Righteousness

Rom. 3:3.

Scripture: Romans 3:21-4:8

God's righteous decree: People who sin must die. 1:32.

"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 4:3, 22. However, Abraham lied and asked Sarah to lie on more than one occasion in order to save him from possible death. See Gen. 12:14-20; 20:1-13.

King David wrote a psalm about the blessedness of having the sins of mankind covered – whose sins were not counted against him (Rom. 4:7, 8; Psa. 32:1, 2). During David's reign as king of Israel he ordered one of his subordinates to be put in a position to be killed. He did this because David had caused the man's wife to become pregnant. See II Sam. 11:1-21.

The Apostle Paul quoted the testimony of these two sinners in order to promote the doctrine of "justification by faith" versus righteousness by works. See 3:27-4:8. God, Himself, had passed over Abraham and David's sins because of their faith in Him and His covenants. God did this based on His grace doctrine of **justification by faith** (Gen. 15:6).

God had been passing over the sins of people from the time Adam and Eve broke covenant. This caused sin to enter into the life of mankind (Rom. 5:12-14; Heb. 11:4, 7, 13). True, sin offerings were offered according to God's commands (Heb. 10:1-3). However, this did not appease God for their sins against Him and others (Heb. 10:8-14).

With the foregoing in mind we can understand what Paul meant when he said, "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify." 3:21. Paul continued, "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." 3:22. This is the same doctrine Abel and Noah enjoyed; however, the sin offering was not sufficient for removing guilt from the conscience of a sinner (Heb. 9:9; 10:12). Paul stated the doctrine for us in Romans 3:21-26. Note the activity in this Scripture.

