

2017  
**frosh**

## Part 1: The Irreligious Religion

### APPETIZER: The Girl With All The Gifts

When Adam slipped into sin, this image and likeness of God was cancelled and effaced.

~ John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion

Since the image of God had been destroyed in us by the fall, we may judge from its restoration what it originally had been. ... But now, although some obscure lineaments of that image are found remaining in us; yet are they so vitiating and maimed, that they may truly be said to be destroyed. For besides the deformity which everywhere appears unsightly, this evil also is added, that no part is free from the infection of sin.

~ John Calvin, Commentary on Genesis

**Genesis 9:6; James 3:9**

“SIN”

*Hamartia* = “ha” (not) + “meros” (together)

We all have a virus that pushes us away from each other and from God.

God’s solution is salvation. He saves us from sin.

#### IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS:

God credits us with unearned righteousness and declares us justified (“just-as-if-I’d” never sinned). The image is legal pardon.

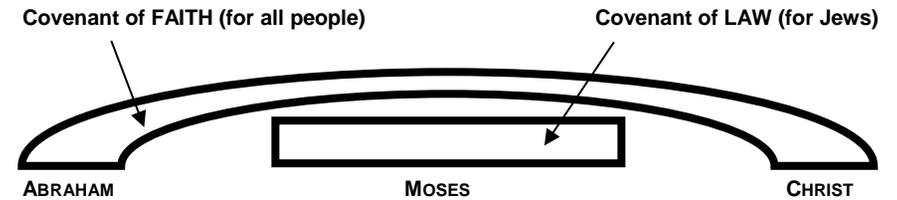
#### IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS:

God gives us his righteousness and a new heart. The image is spiritual healing.

## DINE IN: Imputed Righteousness

Romans 4:1-5

Genesis 26:5; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Exodus 23:7;  
John 1:17; Luke 5:31-32



### OUR FOUNDING FATHER & NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

“Abraham trusted God, and was made right with God.”

We the people, in order to form a more perfect union, trust in God to make us right with him. We receive our righteousness as a gift, which leads to life, liberty, and thankful happiness.

## TAKE OUT: Accessing God’s Guidance Here and Now

How does God lead us?

1. Jesus in Scripture.
2. Jesus in us.
3. Jesus in others.

At The Meeting House...

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

Learning from Scripture  
Serving inside the Church  
Singing  
Evangelism

#### HOME CHURCH

Learning from Each Other  
Serving outside the Church  
Praying  
Encouragement & Accountability

NEXT WEEK: We continue our Frosh Series

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review this week's sermon. Talk about what most encouraged or perplexed you, what new things you learned or old things that were confirmed.
2. Discuss the implications of this quote by John Stott: *Justification is the heart of the gospel and unique to Christianity. No other system, ideology or religion proclaims a free forgiveness and a new life to those who have done nothing to deserve it but a lot to deserve judgement instead. All other systems teach some form of self-salvation through good works of religion, righteousness or philanthropy. Christianity, by contrast, is not in its essence a religion at all; it is a gospel, the gospel, good news that God's grace has turned away his wrath.*

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Romans 3:21-4:12**.
  - a. What verse or idea that stands out to you the most? Why?
  - b. The good news of Jesus is fundamentally "irreligious". Agree or disagree? Use this passage to support your opinion.
  - c. If you ask the average person why they think they will go to heaven when they die, they will say something along the lines of, "Because I'm a good person." Based on this passage, how do you think the Apostle Paul would respond to that sentiment?
  - d. Paul argues that Abraham's circumcision came long after he was made righteous by faith, therefore it was faith and not circumcision that made him righteous. Circumcision was a sign and a seal of what God had already done by faith. How is circumcision in the Old Testament similar and yet different to New Covenant baptism?
  - e. Abraham trusted in God as far as he knew him, and was made righteous by that faith, even though he didn't know anything about Jesus at that point. Does this have any implication for people who trust in what they know about God today, even if they haven't heard about Jesus yet?
  - f. What difference does it make to you – practically or emotionally, in how you live or how you feel – that we must receive salvation as a gift rather than earn it as a wage for our work?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your Huddle Handout Questions and pray for one another.

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## Quotes

Welcome to our Fall Frosh series! For the next few weeks we're going to continue our discussion about the faith of Abraham by looking at New Testament texts on the topic.

In Romans chapters 3 and 4 the apostle Paul is talking about the heart of the gospel when he says...

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.

What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.