

# GRACE IN ACTION

## ROMANS 4:9-17

If God's grace is simply an ideal or concept, it is useless drivel.

- But God's grace is a reality and it does real work; it completes a wonderful action and it justifies us before a holy God.

Examples of man's replacements for God's grace:

- The annual pilgrimage to Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico
- Hindu religious festival in India called Maha Kumbh Mela

# ONLY GRACE THROUGH FAITH CAN SAVE, NOT THE LAW OR WORKS

Paul uses three closely related truths—Abraham’s justifying faith did not come by:

1. His circumcision **v. 9-12**
2. It did not come by his keeping the law. **v. 13-15**
3. It came solely by God’s grace. **v. 16-17**

**FIRST, circumcision.** Many Jews believed that salvation was based on their obedience to God in being circumcised, and that, therefore, their eternal security rested in that rite.

# IS THERE ANY RELEVANCE FOR TODAY?

Although few people, even Jews, now believe that circumcision brings salvation, countless millions—perhaps billions—firmly trust in some other form of religious ceremony or activity to make them right with God.

## 1. The Fundamental Catholic Doctrine of Salvation

A. “**Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma**” by Dr. Ludwig Ott—a manual for the priesthood

B. Mid-sixteenth century the Council of Trent

Salvation then becomes a result of baptism and holiness increases through the Eucharist.

# SECOND, ABRAHAM WAS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW, EITHER!

As every Jew well knew, the law was not revealed to Moses until more than five hundred years after Abraham lived, so he had no way of knowing what the law required. God simply made a promise to him.

**In analyzing God's promise to Abraham, four significant things emerge.**

**FIRST**, the promise involved *a land* (see **GEN. 15:18-21**) in which Abraham would live but that would not be possessed until some five centuries later, when Joshua led the Israelites in their conquest of Canaan.

**SECOND**, the promise also involved *a people* who would be so numerous that they could not be numbered, like the dust of the earth and the stars in the sky. **GEN. 13:16; 15:5**

**THIRD**, the promise involved *a blessing* of the entire world through Abraham's descendants. **GEN. 12:3**

**FOURTH**, the promise would be fulfilled in the giving of *a Redeemer*, who would be a descendant of Abraham through whom the whole world would be blessed by the provision of salvation.

**That promise to Abraham was, in essence, a preaching to him of the gospel message!**

# THIRD, ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED BY GOD'S GRACE ALONE

- God reckons (accounts) the believer's **faith** as righteousness in order that salvation **might be in accordance with grace**.
- The power of salvation is in **GOD'S GRACE** not in man's **faith**, **because that faith is a gift. EPH. 2:8-9**
- Lest there be any doubt about what God he was speaking about, Paul gives two qualifications.
  1. This God is the one ***who gives life to the dead***.
  2. God is the one who ***calls into being that which does not exist***—**GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION.**