MADE RIGHTEOUS-------- BY FAITH OR BY WORKS??  
Key Verse  Rom 4:5  
But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly his faith is accounted to him for righteousness  
  
Passage. Romans 4:1-12  
Paul was called to preach the Gospel of the GRACE  OF GOD  
In this passage Paul studies the lives of Abraham and David to make his case  
ABRAHAM , because the NT Jews thought of Abraham as the " father of their faith . to show them that Abraham's salvation is BY FAITH and NOT BY WORKS is spoken of  in the O T ( Gen 15:6)  
BY FAITH Paul in vs 3 says Abraham BELIEVED God and it was ACCOUNTED  to him as RIGHTEOUSNESS  
NOT BY WORKS  (1). The 10 commandments had not yet been given at that time  
                              (2). He  was not circumcised at that time ( vs 10 last part)  
  
BUT Because Abraham was  made righteous when he was still uncircumcised, WE Gentiles and uncircumcised can also BE MADE RIGHTEOUS BY FAITH ( vs 12)  
  
DAVID, Do you know what a life he lived ? Read 2 Sam 11 and you will see he was an adulterer , he got Uriah killed , yet went on to write in Ps 32 :1--2 the very words Paul quoted in vs 7 and 8 ( pl read)  
  
What sins in our lives  make us think that we cannot be made righteous before God ?  
Think again  
Why could David write about his blessed state?  
Because he knew that though as a  SINNER he  could NEVER  be declared RIGHTEOUS before God  
YET , because  BY FAITH  he BELIEVED  
--that God does not impute sin ( vs 8)  
---that GOD IMPUTES RIGHTEOUSNESS to All those who BELIEVE APART FROM WORKS (vs 6)  
So we see that for both Abraham and David it was NOT BY  their WORKS  but BY their FAITH  they were MADE RIGHTEOUS  
  
This knowledge that by believing in God's grace they were made righteous changed their lives , that  
Abraham was called " the friend of God" (James 2:23 )  
And David was referred to as the "man after God's own heart( Acrs 13:22)  
  
We  do not have to be afraid to come to God today  
Do you want to be made righteous ?  
Do you want to be the friend of God ?  
Do you want God  to call you a man/ woman after His own heart??  
This is the good news of our Gospel  
Jesus does  not look at the sinfulness  of our life  
( the tax collector , the thief on the cross ,  the woman who was caught in adultery)  they all came to Jesus .  
No qts were asked of them .They all went away receiving from Him  
What pleased God was their faith  
  
So Come today COME AS YOU ARE  
This Lent season let us FOCUS ON THE WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS  
Bring YOURSELF to Him  It is YOU He wants  
May we bring joy to the heart of our Father by coming , believing that Jesus died in our place and having received His acceptance and forgiveness return  with joyful hearts  
To JESUS  was IMPUTED  OUR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS  
To US  has been IMPUTED JESUS' RIGHTEOUSNESS  
Our Faith in Jesus work will so please our Father's that He will declare us righteous by the righteousness of faith because we  no longer  boast  in the goodness of our works  
  
You may say what if I still continue in my sinful ways?  
I assure you ,  ( yes and it is not something that happens overnight but  when our hearts become so filled , gripped with love toward God at the knowledge  that our  Father no longer sees us as sinners but sees us in the righteousness of His Son , the hold of sin in our lives will slacken increasingly with each passing day  
After all, We don't want to hurt the person we love DO WE ??  
Thus,  RIGHT BELIEVING --------> RIGHT LIVING  
  
Verse for Mediation  2 Corith 5:21  
For He ( God) made Him( Jesus) who knew no sin to become sin for us( you and me)  , that we ( you and me) may become the righteousness of God in Him ( Jesus)  
  
Some thoughts  
1. Don't be sin conscious  , BE JESUS CONSCIOUS  
2. See yourself as your Heavenly Father sees you