

## “Keep the \$Change\$”

**Text: Romans 4:3-5 (KJV)**

*Vs 3—“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness; vs 4 —“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt?” vs 5 —“ But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”*

This month, we look at one of the defining actions by God; the “grace” he extends to all who believe in him. In this passage, the Apostle Paul uses secular language in vs. 4, regarding “work”, “reward”, and “debt” to differentiate wages earned for work done, from “grace” (The Amplified Version renders this word as “favor” or “gift”) for work not done. Abraham was extended “grace” or unmerited favor, not for what he had done but for what he believed. The “grace” extended to him was a “gift.” Paul echoes the tremendous power of grace again in *Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)*, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, Not of works lest any man should boast.*”

I recall vividly my days as a Detroit Times Newspaper boy making my weekly rounds to collect for papers delivered. Once a customer who owed \$1.20 for that week’s deliveries gave me a Five Dollar Bill. As I reached into my jeans for the \$3.80 change I owed him, he smiled and said “keep the change”. I responded, “But you only owe me \$1.20”; and he responded, “yes I know, but, you’ve been a good kid.” The customer closed the door with me standing on the porch with my mouth ajar. I reflected on how I had over time missed deliveries and missed the porch when throwing the papers from my bike as I sped down the sidewalk hurrying through my six block long route so I could get home to complete my homework . I thought to myself, I really didn’t deserve such a large tip.

And so it is with God. We fall short of his standard of perfection and of the righteousness that he seeks in us. “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*” *Romans 3:23 (KJV)*. But because we believe in him, he rewards us and he pays us with more than we deserve; and proclaims, with his Son Jesus Christ at his right hand side, “Keep the Change.”

As you contemplate your situation during this stressful time in our nation’s history, when the word of the day is less not more; no not yes; taking not giving; when insensitivity to others trumps being a kind hearted neighbor, be assured that God is faithful and is “*able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us*” *Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)*. I urge you as you deal with one another, be like- minded and adopt this motto: “**Keep the \$Change\$.**”

Yours in Christ,

*Dempsey Scott Harrison, Jr.*