

BULLSEYE!

ACCURATE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE!

QUESTION: "I'VE FOUND A MISTAKE IN THE BIBLE! ROMANS SAYS ABRAHAM WAS NOT JUSTIFIED BY WORKS, BUT JAMES SAYS HE WAS!"

ANSWER: THERE IS NO MISTAKE – THEY BOTH ARE CORRECT.

EXPLANATION:

*For if Abraham were justified by works, **he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.***
[Romans 4:2](#)

*Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** ... when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? [Jam 2:21](#)*

There seems to be a contradiction until you realise

1. Abraham was declared justified on **two** separate occasions.
2. The word "justified" can be used **other** than for salvation.

The word "JUSTIFIED" means to be "DECLARED RIGHT".

Abraham was justified when first **believing** and then by **working by obeying orders**.

*Seest thou how faith wrought with his works (Abraham), and by works was **faith made perfect?** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham **believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness:** and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that **by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.** ([Jam 2:22-24](#))*

These **two** events are **NOT** connected in any way –

1. Abraham is declared right with God because he **BELIEVED** he would be the father of many nations,
2. Abraham is declared right with God because he **OBEYS** and puts Isaac on the altar.

ABRAHAM

Father of many nations
BELIEF

"Put Isaac on the altar"
WORK

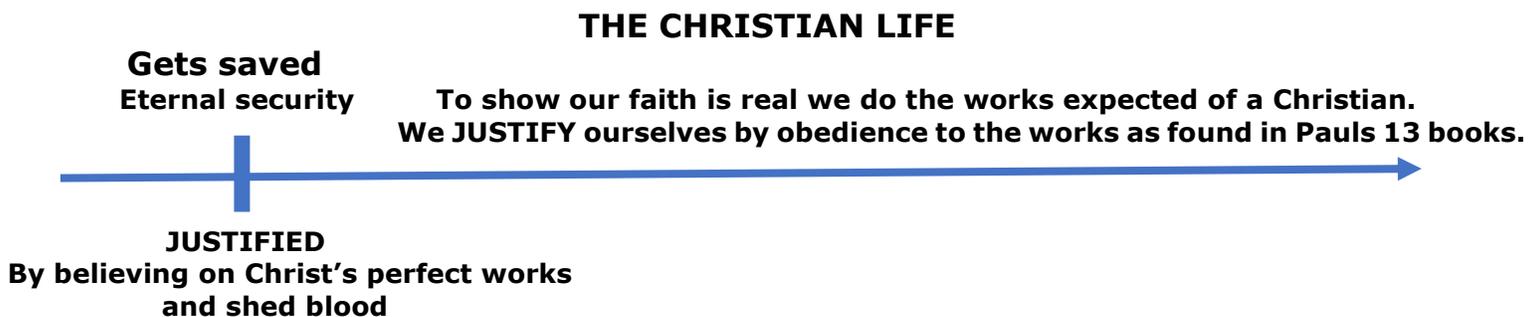


Abraham BELIEVED God
 He is justified
 Declared right before God
 Imputed unto him for righteousness
 OBEDIENCE
 FAITH

Abraham OBEYED God with the WORK of Isaac on the altar
 He is justified
 Declared right before God
 OBEDIENCE
 WORKS

Can you see Abraham’s faith is made “more” perfect with the work of Isaac.

Now the Christian life is to be like this as well as the following diagram will show:

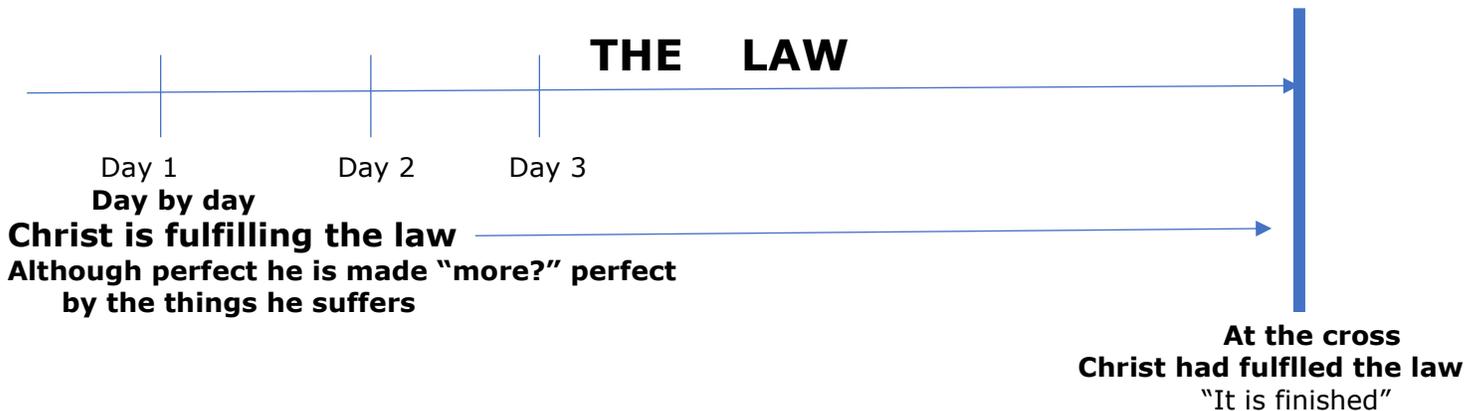


WHY IS CHRIST MADE PERFECT IF HE ALREADY WAS?

Now Christ was always perfect from the day he was born till his death on the cross. So why does the scriptures say that Christ was **being made perfect** if he was all his life?

And **being MADE perfect**, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; [Heb 5:9](#)

Until Christ had **fulfilled** the law at the cross, he was daily **fulfilling** the law in an ongoing basis. It is as if he is perfect one day, and then ‘more’ perfect the next day, and then even more perfect the next day after that and so on. If it makes sense, although being perfect, he was continuously **being made perfect** as the following diagram shows:



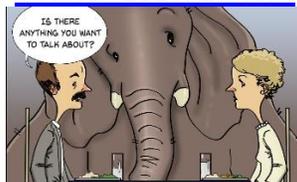
Though he were a Son, yet **learned he obedience by the things which he suffered**;

[Heb 5:8](#) and therefore was continuously, on-going, made perfect.

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