

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 113--Romans 4

Introduction: Paul has shown in the first three chapters that all men, both Jews and Gentiles, have sinned against God and thus could not be saved by works. Furthermore he has affirmed that the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel is based on faith in Christ apart from works of law (perfect obedience to law). Now Paul appeals to Abraham as an example of one whom God justified by faith as he trusted in God's promise of salvation. Those who follow in Abraham's steps are his true descendants and heirs of the blessing of eternal life promised to him.

Lesson aim: To show how Abraham was justified by faith in the promise of the gospel rather than by works of the Law, including circumcision.

Abraham was justified by faith, not works--Rom. 4:1-8

1. With what question does Paul introduce the subject of this chapter? (v. 1)
2. Was Abraham justified by works? (v. 2) What OT passage shows how Abraham was justified before God? (v. 3)
3. For one who "works", his wage or payment is not reckoned as what? (v. 4) But rather it is reckoned as what?
4. What does Paul say one who does not work does, according to v. 5? When by faith in Christ's death and resurrection, we trust God to forgive us, that faith is reckoned unto what?
5. Who else spoke of the concept of God reckoning righteousness to man apart from works? (v. 6-8) What verse does Paul quote? Upon whom does it pronounce a blessing?

Abraham was justified before being circumcised--Rom. 4:9-12

1. Was Abraham circumcised or uncircumcised when God pronounced him righteous by faith? (v. 9-10)

2. Of what then did circumcision serve as a sign? (v. 11) What did Abraham's justification without circumcision enable him to be?

Abraham and his spiritual descendants are justified by faith in the promise of the gospel, not by keeping the Law--Rom. 4:13-25

1. What did God promise to Abraham and his descendants? (v. 13) How did this promise come?
2. If one can receive the inheritance of God by keeping the works of the Law, then what is made void or nullified? (v. 14) What does the Law bring about? (v. 15)
3. The promise of God to Abraham is by what? (v. 16) It is in accord with what? This assures that the promise will be certain to whom?
4. When people follow Abraham's example of faith what do they become? (v. 16-17) Did God promise this to Abraham? When?
5. What was Abraham's and Sarah's bodily condition when God promised them that multitudes would come from them? (v. 18-19) How old was Abraham? Had Sarah been able to have children?
6. What was Abraham's attitude toward the promise of God? (v. 20-22) Could we say that the faith Abraham showed justified him?
7. Who else may also be justified by faith like Abraham's? (v. 23-24) In whom do we place our faith? Why do we believe in Him?
8. For what purpose did Jesus die and be raised from the dead? (v. 25)