



ABRAHAM WAS CREDITED RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 4:1-12

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning church! Paul uses the Old Testament story of Abraham as a model to prove justification is by grace through faith in Christ. So if Abraham can be justified by faith, then there is no way the Jews could refute this. This is their bread and butter! They saw Abraham as the supreme example of a righteous man.

READ, *Romans 4:1-12*

“What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” 9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. 10 How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. 11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, 12 and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.”

1. Faith is the VEHICLE that leads us to SALVATION. (v 2-5)

*“And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” **Genesis 15:6***

- Faith is the God-given present ASSURANCE of future REALITY.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1

- Faith is the HEART-belief and COMPLETE trust in Jesus Christ.

2. Faith in Jesus Christ brings **BLESSINGS** of imputed **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. (v 6-8)

- We are FORGIVEN.
- We are COVERED.
- We are NOT GUILTY.

*“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?” **James 2:21***

3. All true believers are **HEIRS** of Abraham’s Promised **REWARD**.

- For the Jew, his circumcision POINTED BACK to his justification.
- For the Gentile, his justification was RECEIVED APART from circumcision.

Sometimes we are so fixated upon ourselves we don't see what's ahead. That is what faith is... trusting in God who can see ahead even when we can not. Sometimes we just don't want to move or change our ways! Then, we realize we are not the biggest stuff or the hottest stuff out there. But the Lord God is! I don't place my faith in a person or even a political party, I place my faith in Jesus Christ. We know God will be our help in time of trouble, our refuge and strength when we are in the storms of life. We must completely trust in him and yield to his Lordship. If we believe in the Lord through faith, we will to be credited righteousness.