

Romans 4 –

Here Paul continues to build his case that justification (being made right before God) is by faith in Christ. A religious Jew reading chapter 3 would have been scandalized that Paul said all people are without goodness and righteousness comes only through faith.

Here in Chapter 4, Paul is going to show them that salvation has always been through faith and never works. He is going to use the two greatest men in the Jewish faith, Abraham and David, to make his case.

Yet, at the end of the chapter he makes it clear that “Abraham’s Promise” (which was that he would father many nations and the world would be blessed through him) is fulfilled in those who have faith – not those who are simply descended from Abraham.

Read chapter 4 as you go through the outline. Paul shows that Christ is the fulfillment of all God’s promises.

I. Salvation Has Always Been By Faith (v. 1-8)

A. Abraham was Justified by Faith not Works (1-3)

1. What did Abraham gain for his fleshly offspring? (1)
2. Abraham had no cause to boast before God (2)
 - a. His works didn’t earn anything
 - b. His obedience didn’t give him the right to boast before God
3. Abraham was justified by Faith (3)
 - a. Paul quotes Gen. 15:6
 - b. Abraham believed and it was counted (reckoned) as righteousness
 - i. Counted = transferred to his account. He was counted as righteous because of his faith.
4. God Does Not Owe Man Anything (4-5)
 - a. The one who works is owed his wages
 - b. The one who believes, his faith is counted as righteousness
 - i. the believer trusts in the one who justifies the ungodly
 - ii. the believer trust that God will justify the ungodly
 - iii. the believer believes that he is ungodly and is in need
 - iv. the believer’s faith is credited to his account as “righteousness”

B. David Preached Salvation by Faith (6-8)

1. Paul tells us that David spoke about righteousness apart from works (v. 6)
 - a. Describing the “Blessed” man
 - i. His lawless deeds (iniquities) are forgiven (v. 7)
 - ii. His sins are “covered”
 - iii. His sins are not counted against (impute) him
 - b. Analyzing the “Blessed” man

- i. His righteousness is not by works
 - a) He has iniquities and sins therefore his works are not perfect and he is owed nothing from God
 - b) His “good” works cannot take away the bad
 - c) His only hope is God’s forgiveness
 - d) God covers his sins (“with what?”)
 - e) God doesn’t count his sin against him
(how can God do that and still be just?)

Here the religious Jew would be objecting that God gave Abraham’s descendents specific promises which God is obligated to fulfill. Therefore, Paul’s argument in Romans so far cannot be correct.

**We will go in depth about Abraham’s Promis and How Jesus fulfills it in class
But here
Paul Responds -**

II. Abraham’s Promise is Obtained by Faith (v. 9-15)

A. The Promise was Given by Faith and For Faith (9-12)

1. Paul asks “who possesses this blessing” (blessing from v. 7)
 - a. Does this blessing come only to the circumcised?
(remember circumcision is the sign of the covenant)
 - b. Does it also come to the uncircumcision (non-Jews)
2. Paul Demonstrates that Abraham was uncircumcised when the promise was given. (10)
 - a. He was counted righteous before he was circumcised
 - b. He was given the promise before there were any Jews
 - c. He was given the promise before God had made His people
3. Paul Demonstrates that circumcision was the sign of faith (11a)
 - a. Circumcision is not the thing that brings righteousness
 - b. Circumcision is the sign that one is righteous by faith
 - i. it was the seal of the righteousness he had already been given through faith
4. Paul Demonstrates that the purpose of Abraham’s Promise was to be the Father of all those who Believe (11b-12)
 - a. “THAT” (purpose) he might be the father of those who believe
 - b. Righteousness is counted to the uncircumcised who believe
 - c. They walk in the faith of Abraham (faith in Jesus)

B. The Promise Was Not Given by Law (13-15)

1. Faith is the basis of one being an offspring (seed) of Abraham
 - a. we will see that Abraham’s promise is fulfilled in Christ not is simply being born a Jew
2. Law Nullifies Faith (14)
 - a. If obeying the law makes one a child of Abraham then no one is

- b. The promise is unfulfillable if it depends on obedience
- 3. Law can only bring wrath, not righteousness (15)
 - a. Because of our sin, law cannot save us
 - b. It only brings God's wrath
 - c. Only when the law is completely satisfied ("there is no law") can transgression be forgiven justly

III. Abraham's Righteousness is Obtained by Faith (16-22)

- A. Abraham's Promise is by Grace through faith (16-17a)
 - 1. The promise depends on faith
 - 2. The promise rests on grace
 - 3. The promise is to all his offspring
 - 4. The offspring are all who share Abraham's faith
- B. Abraham's Faith is Described (17b-21)
 - 1. He believed God's Promise of Offspring (17b-18)
 - a. He believed he would be the father of many nations
 - b. He believed "against hope" (even though it seemed impossible)
 - c. He believed God gives life to the dead
 - d. He believed God speaks things into existence
 - 2. He believed God's Promise in spite of his own weakness (19)
 - a. Even though his own body was "dead" (old and not able to have kids) being 100 years old.
 - b. Even though Sarah was past age of childbirth and barren even before that – he believed
 - 3. He Believed With all of His heart and mind (20-21)
 - a. He did not waiver at God's promise
 - b. He was strong in his faith
 - c. He gave God glory for doing the impossible before it was ever done.
 - d. He was fully persuaded that God was able to fulfill His promise
- C. Abraham's Faith is Credited (imputed) as Righteousness (22)

IV. Abraham's Promise is Our Hope Also (23)

- A. The Old Testament story wasn't written for Abraham alone
- B. Abraham's righteousness is counted to all who believe in Jesus
- C. We believe Jesus was delivered to the cross for our sin
- D. We believe Jesus defeated death for our salvation