

Romans

Chapter 4

Romans 4:1-3

“What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Father Abraham

- Paul is returning his discussion back to the Jews once again by highlighting **Abraham our forefather according to the flesh.**
- The Jews were probably wondering what the significance of God's call was upon Abraham and ultimately the Jewish people if God justified everyone by faith and not by works?
- Abraham's response and obedience is something for Abraham to **boast** about but **not before God.**
- Abraham could not boast before God because he received justification by **faith, not by works.**

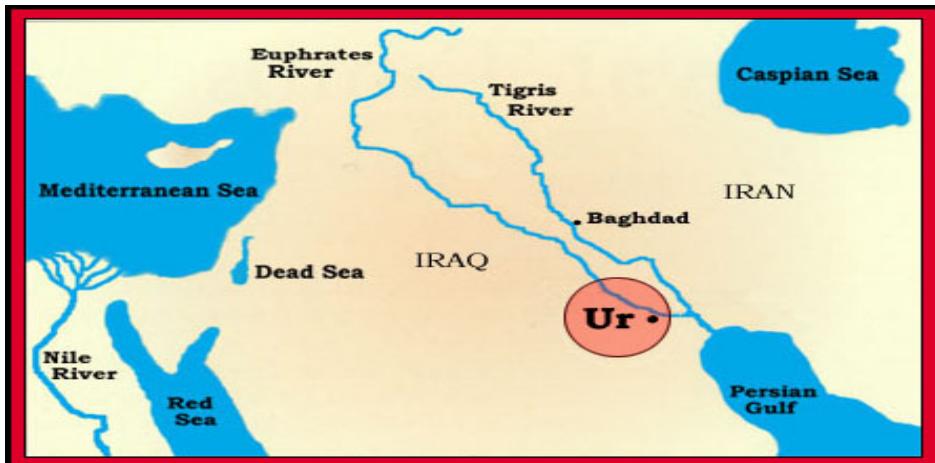
- **For what does the Scripture say** is Paul's appeal to the Bible as the Word of God for the final authority about Abraham.
- The Scripture tells us that, **Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**
- "For the Apostle and his readers the Scripture was the final and infallible court of appeal." -Vine, W.E.
- Paul makes it very clear from the Scripture that Abraham's righteousness did not come by doing good works but because he **believed God.**
- Scripture tells that Abraham's **righteousness** was obtained **by faith.**

Abraham

- Who was **Abraham** and to what reason did God consider him to be **righteous**?
- Outside of Moses, Abraham is considered the most important person to the Jewish people.
- “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of **Abraham, my friend**;”-**Isaiah 41:8**
- God considered Abraham to be His friend and he **believed God**; Jesus calls those who **believe Him** friends as well (**John 15:15**).

- Many of the Jewish rabbis' taught that Abraham experienced justification because of his **obedience** rather than because of his **faith**.
- “**By faith** Abraham **obeyed** when he was **called** to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”-**Hebrews 11:8**
- The writer to the Hebrews makes it clear that Abraham's **obedience** was a direct result of his **faith**.
- Abraham believed God when He called out to him that produced in Abraham a **God directed action in obedience to the will of God**.

Abraham was called out of Ur



Excavation Of The City of Ur



Chapel for Nanna the moon god



City streets



City Bakery

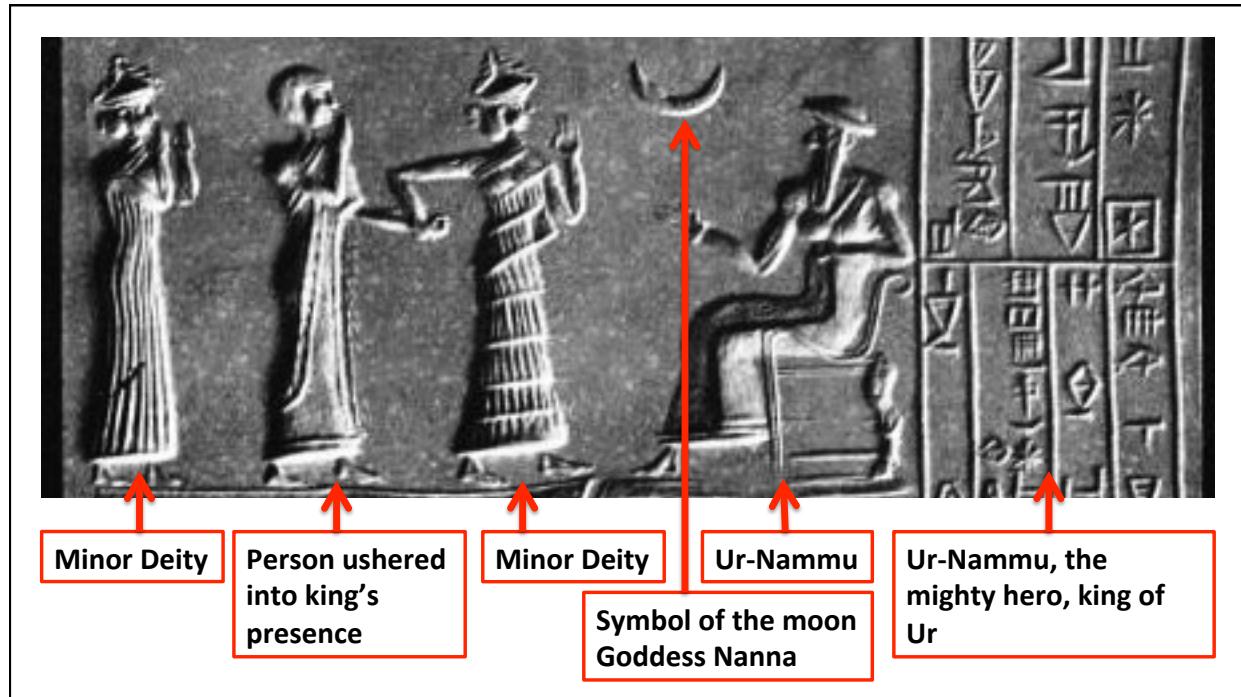


Flood deposit layer

Ur-Nammu

- Ur-Nammu was King of Ur from 2112-2095 B.C.. It was during his reign that God placed the call upon Abraham to go from your country(**Genesis 12:1**).
- The early civilizations like Sumer, Akkad, and Egypt praised their kings and war heroes as protectors and worshipped them as gods.
- Ur-Nammu was no exception for he, “did much to enhance the economic and military security of the country. For such efforts he was lauded in a Sumerian hymn.”-Encyclopedia of Ancient History

- He oversaw the building of ziggurats, and one in particular in Ur was called “the mountain of heaven”.
- Ur-Nammu purposefully presented himself as the successor to the Sumerian lineage of great kings/gods and suggests that he may have honored Nimrod’s rebellion with his own ziggurat of a similar name.
- “He instituted a Patrimonial State in which his subjects were encouraged to see him as a father-figure who cared for his children and wanted only the best for them.”-EOAH



- Ur prospered during the reign of Ur-Nammu and scholars refer to his time period as the Sumerian Renaissance.
- They have excavated a ziggurat, commercial buildings, 2 story homes with court yards, fireplaces, sanitary systems, chapels, school buildings with clay tablets which they taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and history.
- “They dug up the remains of a house in which was a clay tablet which had been unfinished, and on that tablet, whoever had been using it, was working out a problem in trigonometry, which problem they are still working out at Oxford and Cambridge”.-G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)

Abraham's Relatives Worshipped Idols

- “And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and **they served other gods.** ”-**Joshua 24:2**
- “For all the gods of the peoples are **worthless idols**”-**Psalm 96:5a**
- “Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father’s **household gods.** ”-**Genesis 31:19**

- There was an idol for a wide range of things from fertility to agriculture to war and unfortunately people influenced by demonic deception sacrificed infants and virgins in order to gain the blessing from these false gods.
- “What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an **idol** is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to **demons** and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.”-**2 Corinthians 10:19-20**
- “They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to **demons** that were no gods, to gods they had never known...”-**Deuteronomy 32:16**

Idols Have No Voice Or Power

- A Jewish legend teaches that Abraham's father owned an idol shop. One day, while his father was away and Abraham was in charge of the store, he smashed all the idols but the biggest with an ax, and then put the ax in the remaining idol's hand. To his outraged father's question as to what had happened, Abraham explained that the large idol became upset at the other idols and destroyed them. "You know these idols can't move," Terah shouted. "If they can't save themselves." Abraham answered, "then we are superior to them. So why do we worship them?" -Rabbi Telushkin, Jewish Literacy

God Called Abraham

- The Hebrew writer tells us the Abraham obeyed when he was called
- Abraham obeyed God when he heard the voice of God call out to him and he packed up his family and left Ur and all of it's wonder behind forever.
- "And he [Stephen] said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: **The God of glory** appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, '**Get out of your country and from your relatives**, and come to a land that I will show you.'"-
Acts 7:2-3
- The emphasis on the **God of glory** is to make the contrast between the **idols worshipped** in the city of Ur and the God of the universe.

- “But the LORD God **called** to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”-**Genesis 3:9**
- The redemptive work that God does upon the heart begins by His divine call. The Father reaches out in grace.
- God, by His grace, initiated the call to Abraham who responded out of faith.
- In Hebrew there is not a word for **faith** the closest word for faith that they have is *emunah* which is **active trust in the goodness of Lord which then expresses itself in loyalty to His will.**

- The **faith** that made Abraham righteous wasn't so much believing in God as when people say they believe He exists.
- That kind of belief is on the same level as demons who also believe that God exists **James 2:19**.
- When people define faith as merely to mean that, “I believe that God exists”, the Bible defines this faith as meaningless. “It is like believing in the existence of one's neighbor: the issue is not whether your neighbor exists but whether your neighbor can be trusted.”-Prager, Dennis

- God, by His grace, **called** Abraham out of the secular world of Ur and their false gods and he **trusted** the True and Living God.
- When Paul said that **Abraham believed God** he means Abraham trusted **God's righteousness** which in turn by God's Word that same **God righteousness** was **credited** to Abraham's account.
- Since none of us can be good enough to accomplish perfect righteousness then we must have God's righteousness **accounted** to us by doing just what Abraham did: **he believed God**.
- "... Abraham just *believed* God: gave Him the honor of being a God of truth."-Newell, William

The Gospel and Abraham

- What did Abraham trust God for which God credited His righteousness to him?
- In Genesis 15:5, Abraham is promised that an heir would come from his own body that would redeem mankind?
- Now the Scripture saw in advance that **God** would justify the Gentiles by faith and **proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham**, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. Consequently, **those who have faith** are blessed with Abraham, who had faith...Now the **promises** were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say "and to seeds,"

- as though referring to many, but referring to one, and to your seed, **who is Christ**... And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the **promise**."-**Galatians 3:8-9,16,29**
- **Abraham believed God** and the promise of the gospel message.
- "by which He has granted to us His precious and very great **promises**, so that through them you may become partakers of **the divine nature**..."-**2 Peter 1:4a**
- When a person **believes** in the **promise (Jesus)** in the gospel message, he like Abraham **believes God**, and has **union** with His **divine nature** resulting in **His** righteousness **credited** to the believer without merit.

Righteousness

- " I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; **he has covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."-**Isaiah 61:10**
- "And the **effect** of righteousness will be peace, and the **result** of righteousness, quietness and trust forever."-**Isaiah 32:17**
- "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has **laid on him the iniquity** of us all."-**Isaiah 53:6**
- " I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; **return to me**, for I have redeemed you."-**Isaiah 44:22**

- “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for **my own sake**, and I will not remember your sins.”-**Isaiah 43:25**
- “In your **righteousness** deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me!”-**Psalm 71:2**
- “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, **the righteousness from God** that depends on faith”-**Philippians 3:9**
- “What does this mean? I can understand how GOD can damn me in His righteousness, but if He would save me it must surely be in His mercy!” The more he meditated on it, the more the wonder grew. But little by little the truth dawned upon his troubled soul that **GOD Himself had devised a righteous method** whereby He could **justify unrighteous sinners** who came to Him in repentance and received His Word in faith.”-Ironside, H.I. on Luther

Counted

- It's important to note that Paul said that God **counted** it to Abraham **as righteous**.
- **Logizomai** is another word that is important for our understanding of the Book of Romans.
- The word is an accounting term that means to balance the scales or the books.
- Abraham **believed God** and gave to God the glory of being a God of truth and faithful to His promise therefore God **credited** to Abraham **as righteous**.

- Abraham's faith did not make him deserving of righteousness.
- Faith **counted** as righteousness means even though Abraham was **not** righteous God treated him as though he was a righteous man.
- "If we compare other verses in which the same grammatical construction is used as in **Genesis 15:6** we arrive at the conclusion...that the crediting of Abraham's faith as righteousness means to 'to account him a righteousness that does not belong to him'"-Moo, Douglas
- Abraham possessed righteousness in the same manner as a person would possess a sum of money placed in his account in a bank." -Wuest, Kenneth

Romans 4:4-5

"Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,"

Grace and Works

- Paul is making a distinction between a gift or grace and works.
- “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.”-Vs. 4-NKJV
- **Grace** has to do with receiving a freely given **gift** from God which is contrary to **works** which has to do with **deserving** of merit/wages before God.

- It is incredible how far the depths of the grace of God reaches since He **justifies** those who not only fail to deserve justification but **condemnation** because they are **ungodly** and yet still **his faith is counted as righteousness**-Vs.5
- “Signified in classical authors a favor done out of the spontaneous generosity of the heart without any expectation or return. Of course, this favor was always done to one’s friend, never to an enemy... But when *charis* comes into the New Testament, it takes an infinite leap forward, for the favor God did at Calvary was for those who hated Him.”-Wuest, Kenneth

Does James Deny Paul's Theology?

- Are we justified by faith alone?
 - Yes as Paul declares, “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **apart** from the deeds of the law.”-**Romans 3:28**
 - James’ letter addresses our **justification before men** and Paul would agree! Faith must be shown to be known.
 - Paul taught good works must accompany saving faith (Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:8; Gal. 5:6; Phil. 2:11-12).
 - Paul corrected righteousness **before God** by works by of the law.
 - James letter teaches justification by faith but **good works are evidence before men** of the believer’s walk.

Romans 4:6-8

“just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.’”

David

- Paul chooses, David, as another respected man as an example from Jewish history.
- David is considered by Israel to be its greatest king.
- David knew the character of God and the Lord stated that David was a **man after his own heart** (1 Samuel 13:14).
- David's heart prayed, “**One** thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.”-**Psalm 27:4**

- Whereas Abraham was before the Law, David is a testimony to living under the Law, but he did not seek justification through the Law.
- David testifies to the **double blessing** that comes upon the person whom **God counts righteous** and upon the person whom **lawless deeds are forgiven**.
- "Forgiveness is more than mere remitting of penalty. Even a hard-hearted judge might remit a man's fine if it were paid by someone else, but forgiveness involves the heart of the forgiver. God's forgiveness is the going forth of God's infinite tenderness toward the object of His mercy. It is God folding the sinner, as the returning prodigal was folded, to His bosom. Such a one is **blessed** indeed!"-Newell, William

- **Abraham** and **David** both agreed that God justifies **apart from the Law** not **counting lawless deeds** against man because righteousness is a **gift given**, not **earned**.
- **Logizomai**, (counting) is centered on what God puts into our account (the righteousness of Jesus), not on what we do for God.
- The KJV says, “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not **impute** sin.” -**Romans 4:8**
- In statistical analysis **imputation** is the process of replacing missing data with **substituted** values.
- In theology **imputation** means God replaces my **missing** righteousness and **substitutes** it with His own righteousness in Jesus.

- My bank account is empty because of sin but God does not **count my sin** in my savings account but instead **replaces my account** with **His righteousness** and **counts** me righteous even though I am bankrupt of righteousness due to my sin.
- Kenneth Wuest translates verse 8, “Spiritually prosperous is the man to whose account the Lord does not in **any case put sin**.”
- “When I believe in Jesus, I am **united to Christ**. Therefore, what he did and achieved becomes mine by this **union** through faith alone. His righteous life is **imputed** to me. What Christ achieved is **counted** as mine.” -Piper, John
- “And because of him you are **in** Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ” -**1 Corinthians 1:30**

- “by which He has granted to us His precious and very great **promises**, so that through them you may become partakers of **the divine nature**...”-2 Peter 1:4a
- When a person **believes** in the **promise (Jesus)** in the gospel message, he like Abraham **believes God**, and which results in having **union** with God’s **divine nature** resulting in **His** righteousness **credited** to the believer without merit.
- “Christians know by experience that true religion is a union of the soul with God, a real participation in the divine nature, the very image of God drawn upon the soul, or, in the apostle’s phrase, “it is Christ formed within us”.”
— **Henry Scougal**

Romans 4:9-12

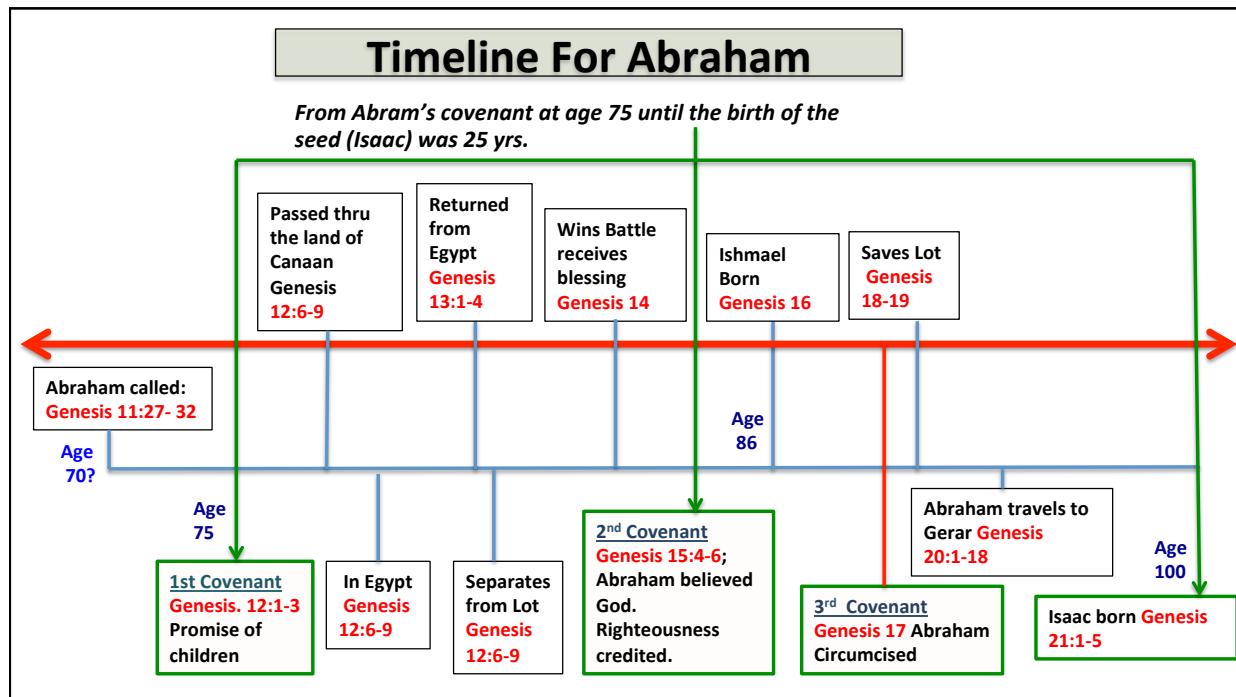
“Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised?”

It was not after, but before he was circumcised. 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, 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.”

Our Father Abraham

- Paul continues with his history lesson by pointing out from Scripture that Abraham **believed** before the actual ritual of circumcision therefore making him the Father of all who **also walk in the footsteps of the faith**.
- The Jews believed circumcision was a **sign** of a persons belonging and solidarity with his Jewish brethren.
- Abraham was counted as righteous in **Genesis 15:6**. He did not receive the covenant of circumcision until **Genesis 17** which was a few years later. Therefore his righteousness wasn't based on **circumcision**, but upon **faith**.



- The Jews could argue that Abraham was circumcised after he believed but the historical record of Scripture denies this and supports the truth that Abraham received the **sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.**
- The critical link to Abraham is not circumcision. It is far more important to be linked to **Abraham's faith** and the righteousness that is counted to him.

Romans 4:13-15

“For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.”

God's Promise

- God gave His **promise** in order to bless the nations through Abraham who is **heir of the world** and the Jews who are Abraham's **offspring**.
- The Law came many years later and it was incorrect thinking for the Jews to believe that the blessing of the nations was contingent upon them being obedient to the Law.
- God gave the **promise** to Abraham not because of his obedience but because of his **faith**.
- It depends totally upon God's faithfulness to His **promise** to make righteous all who have **faith**.

- “Faith is the ground of God’s blessing. Abraham was a blessed man, indeed, but he became **heir of the world** on another principle entirely – simple faith.”-Newell, William
- If a person regards the **Law** as the principle by which we are justified and then since the **Law** exposes our transgressions **the law brings wrath**
- If righteousness depends on the **Law** then **faith is null and the promise is void**.
- If a person can obey the Law then there wasn’t a need for Jesus and the **promise is void**/worthless.
- “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for **no** purpose.”-**Galatians 2:21**

Romans 4:16

“That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,”

Promise and Grace

- A total trust and dependence upon God through faith in the His **promise** nothing more, nothing less.
- The **promise** of God was fulfilled by Jesus and it is all based solely on God's **grace**.
- **Grace** cannot be gained through **merit**. **Merit** and **grace** are incompatible .
- Grace and faith are congruous, and will draw together in the same chariot, but grace and merit are contrary the one to the other and pull opposite ways, and therefore God has not chosen to yoke them together.”-Spurgeon, Charles

Faith of Abraham

- All who put their faith in Jesus Christ are sons of Abraham, **the father of us all**.
- Abraham has his spiritual children and he has natural children and God has a plan and a place for both.
- In Paul's argument is that it is far more important to **share in the faith** of Abraham as a spiritual offspring than his natural offspring who are **adherent of the law**.
- "It enables me to answer the most basic of all human questions, 'Who am I?' and to say, 'In Christ I am a son of God. In Christ I am united to all the redeemed people of God, past, present, and future. In Christ I discover my identity. In Christ I find my feet. In Christ I come home." -Stott, John

Romans 4:17-18

"as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."

Hope against Hope

- When God made the promise to Abraham to make him a **father of many nations** Sarah was barren.
- “Now Sarai was **barren**; she had no child.”-**Genesis 11:30**
- God did for Abraham and Sarah only what He can do give **life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist** and blessed them 25 years later with a child.

- “He [Abraham] kept on in hope, believing contrary to all human hopes! There were many trials to his faith, the essence of difficulty, however, always being to ‘look unto the promise of God’ alone, and not in circumstances, or to the impossibility, according to the flesh, of the promise’s being fulfilled.”-Newell, William
- God called the dead womb of Sarah to life and today He calls out to those who are **dead in the trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)** to new life in Jesus.
- “I’m greatly comforted when God speaks about me as righteous, justified, glorified, holy, pure, and saintly. God can talk about such things before they exist, because He knows they will exist.”-Smith

Romans 4:19-22

“He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

Abraham's Faith

- Abraham did not **weaken in faith** when he looked around at his circumstances and **considered his own body**.
- We are told that Sarah upon hearing that she was going bear a child **laughed within herself** and then denied to the Lord that she had laughed.-**Genesis 18:12-15**
- It is not that Abraham didn't have moments of doubt when he considered his situation but he chose to not let **unbelief** or doubt cause him to **waver concerning the promise of God**.
- Abraham **grew strong in his faith** and became **fully convinced** that God had authority and is more than faithful to fulfill what He had **promised**.

- Abraham had to walk by faith into an uncertain future but **as he gave glory to God** he **grew stronger** in his faith.
- One of the ways the Scripture says we glorify God is through our obedience to His Word.
- The Bible says “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles **honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day of visitation”-**1 Peter 2:12**
- Another way God is glorified is through His love for sinful man and His infinite kindness towards us in Christ.

- God's glory was fully displayed in the work of Jesus on the Cross by which, "the eternal Son of God...might fully exercise the **infinite benevolence** of his nature, and to whom[believers] he might, as it were, open and pour forth all that **immense fountain** of condescension, love, and grace that was in his **heart**, and that in this way God might be glorified."-Edwards, Jonathan
- Benevolence: A disposition to act kindly towards others. The heart or nature of God is open and pours forth out of His immense fountain of kindness toward us in Christ.
- "He[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the **exact imprint of his nature**..." "so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus. "-**Hebrews 1:3a;Ephesians 2:7**

- Another way we give glory to God is to recognize Who He is and rely upon His power and faithfulness to fulfill all of His **promise** in Jesus.
- God is glorified and the believer is strengthened in faith, when as a believer, he puts his total trust in God's **promise** and is **fully convinced** that **God is able** to do what he has **promised**.
- "and what is the **immeasurable greatness of his power** toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ..." -**Ephesians 1:19-20a**
- "Anyone can believe in God's power abstractly. Everyone who believes there is a personal God believes also that He is omnipotent; saving faith stands alone in saying that God can make His supernatural promises good.-Stifler, James
- The same God who spoke to Abraham and Sarah says also to us today: "**Is anything too hard for the LORD?**" -**Genesis 18:14**

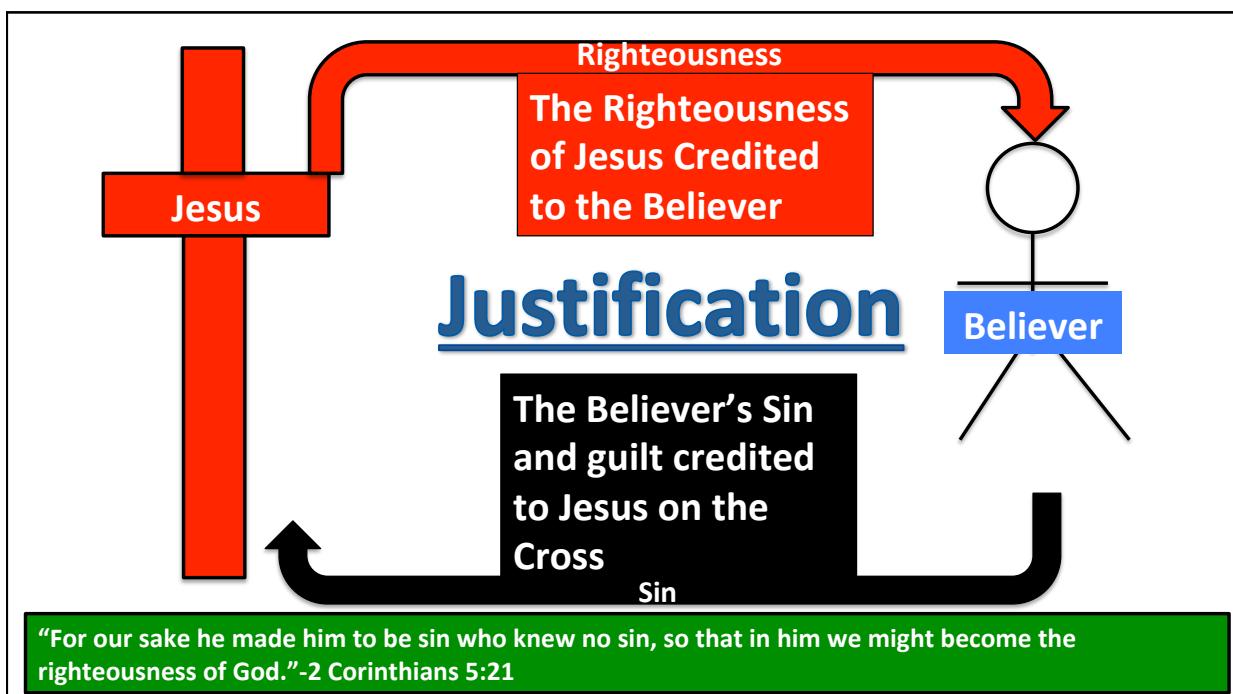
Romans 4:23-25

“But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

Justification in Jesus

- God **counts** righteousness today for all who **believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord**.
- “This is why the scriptures are **written for our learning** so that through them we may find **comfort** and have **hope**. –**Romans 15:4**
- Jesus was **delivered up for our trespasses**. It was and is our sin that put Jesus on the Cross. God laid upon Him every sin and He is the Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world.

- Jesus was **raised for our justification** or righteousness.
- “And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he **sat down at the right hand of God**, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a **single offering** he has perfected for **all time** those who are being sanctified.”-**Hebrews 10:11-14**
- “but he holds his priesthood **permanently**, because he **continues forever**. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make **intercession** for them.”-**Hebrews 7:24-25**
- “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **he who promised** is faithful.”-**Hebrews 10:23**



Justification	Sanctification
Declared to be Righteous	Demonstrated Righteousness
Instantaneous at conversion	Progressive and a Life Long Pursuit
Imputed/Credited Righteousness: The Believer's Position before God.	Imparted Righteousness: The Believer's Practice before men.
A Legal Act by God	Transformational Righteousness
God's Work For Us	God's Work In Us
Based On the Death and Resurrection of Jesus	Based on the work of the Holy Spirit and the Intercessory Priesthood of Jesus
Basis of Sanctification	Result of Justification leading to Glorification
Finished at Conversion	Finished at Glorification/Consummation
Union with Christ in His death and Resurrection	Communion with Christ in the present through the Word of God

- Our justification is the righteousness and obedience of Christ and it is all about Him not us.
- We are directed by Scripture look away from ourselves to Christ and his accomplished work.
- There is one passage that sums up Paul's view of Justification which is quite illuminating.
- A literal translation of Galatians 2:16 says, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the **faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have **believed in Jesus Christ**, that we might be **justified by the faith of Christ**, and not by the works of the law."- **Galatians 2:16**
- Paul here says that we **believe in Jesus Christ** in order that we might be justified by the **faith of Christ**.
- It is **His faith** and **His obedience** that justifies the believer.