

## Abraham: the Man of Faith

### Romans 4

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 3 discusses how sin affects the whole world
- Ch. 4 illustrates faith through Abraham

*[key: A=Abraham; P=Paul]*

#### **1. Abraham's Faith Credited as Righteousness – Romans 4:1-8**

- 1: why A? If P could prove that "Father A" was justified on the basis of faith it would help establish his cause
- 2: if anyone could boast it would be A
- 3: present tense 'what does?' Not 'what did?' written 1500 yrs. before, still speaking today
- Genesis 15:6 – not the 1<sup>st</sup> time A believed
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time states he believed (1<sup>st</sup> in Gen.)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time in Gen. 'righteousness' refers to A
  - Specifically states justified by his faith [best reason for quoting]
  - Chronologically 14ish yrs. Before A was circumcised
- 4: contrasts law/works and grace/faith
- 5: contrasts with grace/faith
- 6-8: 2<sup>nd</sup> example: King David; Ps. 32:1-2 – expressing thankfulness for God forgiving him

#### **2. Righteousness Not Dependent on Circumcision – Romans 4:9-12**

- 9: can only Jews be forgiven or Gentiles also?
- 10: what circumstances was A in Gen. 15:6? Most Jews probably never considered circumcision was in Ch. 17
- 11: why did God command? A sign, Gen. 17:11
- 12: if you were really A's children then you would do the things A did!

#### **3. The Promise Made Through Faith, Not the Law – Romans 4:13-15**

- 13: promise: key word [13, 14, 16, 20]; heir of the world: couldn't be the Law, given at least 430 yrs. later
- 14: faith made empty

- 15: since no one could keep perfectly, in the end all it could bring was wrath

#### **4. Abraham, the Father of All True Believers – Romans 4:16-25**

- 13: promise: key word [13, 14, 16, 20]; heir of the world: couldn't be the Law, given at least 430 yrs. later
- 14: faith made empty
- 15: since no one could keep perfectly, in the end all it could bring was wrath
- 22: quotes Gen. 15:6 again
- 23,24: written for our benefit today also
- 25: delivered over: *alongside* + *give*; used also in connection with Jesus' enemies

#### **Lessons:**

1. We should live our lives to be like A. He believed and obeyed God even when he didn't have all the details – and he was called the "friend of God." [James 2:24]
2. It does not matter today if we are circumcised or uncircumcised, Jew or Greek today when it comes to obedience to God. If we want to be righteous today, it comes through baptism. Romans 6:3-4
3. We can never work enough to merit our own salvation. Thanks be to God, however, we can be forgiven of our sins! Take advantage of this today!

© 2021 Justin D. Reed  
P. O. Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190  
[thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources](http://thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources)  
*a PowerPoint, number 114, accompanies these notes online*