

## Abraham Justified by Faith - Romans 4:1-25

### First Southern Baptist Church - February 15, 2023

#### Introduction:

1. All are justified by faith...  
Abraham justified by faith
2. Note these words:
  - righteousness*
  - imputed* (5 times) - credited to one's account, to put on deposit
  - reckoned* (2 times)/ counted (once)
  - “scripture” is regarded as authoritative for Paul
3. Makes the law (and its place), and faith (and its place), and Abraham (and his place) all fit
4. Abraham is the perfect example
5. In the New Testament we are saved by grace, through faith (Eph. 2:8-10)

#### I. What did Abraham Find? (1-12)

1. He found...
2. If he were justified by works he could “glory” - boast (2)  
-but not before God
3. What does the Bible say? (3)  
Quotes - “believed God, and it was counted as righteousness”
4. The logic... (4)
  - A. If you work you get a reward - that came from debt, not grace  
-so God is forced to acknowledge that He owes you salvation
  - B. If you depend not on work but on Him who justifies... is his “faith” counted for righteousness (5)
  - C. Note, that it is one or the other not a combination
  - D. Jews believed that faith was “faithfulness” - a part of righteousness... Paul argues that faith comes *before* righteousness
5. Quotes David to have described the man on whom the Lord “imputes” righteousness (6)
  - he said... “blessed are they...” (7)
  - blessed is the man on whom God does not “impute” sin (8)
  - happy is the one whose sins are forgiven (Ps 32:1-2)
6. Now,... did this righteousness come only on the circumcised? (9)
  - A. Well, how did righteousness come on Abraham? -was he circumcised? (10)
  - B. The “sign” of circumcision was given later (11)
    - a “seal” of the righteousness of faith
    - righteousness was “imputed”
    - circumcision is not the gateway to right relationship but a sign of it
  - C. He was father of the uncircumcised as well - because he was yet uncircumcised (12)
    - he is the father of the Jews... acknowledged... but he was the father of the uncircumcised as well
7. Therefore, it is not necessary for a man to be circumcised

## II. The Promise was through Faith (13-21)

1. The promise came through faith, through Abraham - to the “world” (13)
  - A. Heir of the world
  - B. The promise not to his seed\*\* - but to those who have faith, and righteousness because of it
  - C. We are not to understand that “faith” is itself a work... but that faith causes God to mark righteousness down on our account
  - D. By the law... makes faith void (14) - it is either/ or
2. If righteousness came through the law... then by faith, there is no righteousness
  - A. The law works (works out to be) wrath - brings wrath (15)
    - the law results in wrath
  - B. Where there is no law, there is no transgression
  - C. So... it is by faith that it might be by grace
  - D. And... not just to the seed of Abraham (after the flesh) but to all the world
    - 1) quotes - “I have made thee father of many nations” - Gen. 17:5
    - 2) he believed God who quickeneth the dead - and makes things that are not as though they were
  - E. Was not justified by keeping the law, because he was justified before the law
3. Therefore, Abraham is the father of us all (16) -*faith father*
4. He believed God (17)
  - A. He believed in hope against hope (18)
    - once a promise has been made, we may only wait in hope for it to be fulfilled
    - “hope against hope” - means it was contrary to hope - beyond hope
  - B. And so... became the father of many nations
  - C. He considered not his own weak body - by faith (19)
    - he did not look at the weak body of Sara - her dead womb
    - as far as making the promise of Isaac happen both Abraham and Sara were “dead”
    - He made the dead live... shadows of the New Testament resurrection
  - D. He staggered not at the promise (20)
    - that would have been unbelief
    - remember that Sara laughed
    - on the contrary he was strong in faith, giving God glory
    - he did not vacillate
  - E. He was fully persuaded - that God was able to perform what He had promised (21)
5. Faith is accepting what God has promised!

## III. And Because of His Faith - It was “Imputed” to Him for Righteousness (22-25)

1. “Imputed” righteousness
2. Now all this is not just for Abraham (23)
  - I mean that it was “imputed”
3. It was for us as well (24)
  - we shall receive this “imputed” righteousness

4. How? - if we “believe” on Him that raised up Jesus
  - God the Father, not the Son
5. Verse 25 he speaks of the Son -
  - He was delivered for our offenses
  - He was raised up for our justification
6. Note that in verse 24 it is “for us also”

If Abraham is the father of all... then the promise is for all as well!

In the Old Testament they were saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-10)

Just as Jesus has been there all along, so God’s way of “saving” has been there all along

Abraham sacrificed Isaac - by faith

Moses sacrificed and put blood on the doorposts - by faith

He believed in God “who quickeneth the dead” (17)

We believe in a God who “raised up our Lord from the dead” (24)

His resurrection is proof of our justification!

\*He is aware that some will say that if you say we are justified by faith you have undercut the motive for “being good” - to be justified. Enter chapters 5-8. The just are not just saved by faith... they “live by faith” (1:17).