

Merry Christmas: Good News For The Ungodly (Romans 4:1-12)

Pastor Deric

(1) 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? For 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.

Practical Application

1. Jesus Christ gives us the greatest gain we could ever have. In Him we get God's special blessing now and forever.
2. Adam and Abraham are our forefathers, but through Jesus Christ God can be our eternal Father.
3. You can be justified by faith, not works. We are declared right with God when we trust in His Son.
4. You can be right with God by faith, not through faithfulness.
5. God justifies the ungodly by the work of Jesus Christ. There is a difference between justification and sanctification.
6. Adam's sin is imputed to us, our sin is imputed to Christ, and Christ's righteousness is imputed to all who believe.
7. Embrace the free gift of righteousness this Christmas. Merry Christmas!
8. You can live in and under the blessing and favor of God both now and forever.
9. Your lawless actions can be forgiven. Your sins can be covered. There is no condemnation for those who believe.
10. No external or religious sign or seal saves anyone. The saved want to take on the sign and seal of God. Believer, get baptized if you have not been. Baptism does not save you. It is a sign of your covenant commitment to Christ.
11. Walk in the footsteps of the faith of Abraham today. Trust in Christ, like he did. He trusted in the Promised One.
12. Jesus is better than Adam, Abraham, and David. Christmas is all about Jesus! It's good news for the ungodly.

Announcements

- Wednesday Awana & Adult Bible Study (6:30-7:30): This Wednesday(Dec. 13) is the Awana Ugly Sweater Party!
- Global Missions Christmas Offering (Lottie Moon): \$5,000 Goal. Please be praying about how God might use you to impact the people of the world, especially those have never heard of Jesus Christ.
- Mighty Oaks Homeschool Cooperative: Enjoy "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" 6pm tonight (Dec. 10th).
- Church Newsletter: Keep an eye out for this helpful email each week.
- Youth Christmas Party: This Wednesday!
- Church business meeting: December 17th (12-12:30).
- Christmas Breakfast: Sunday, December 24th at 9am. All are welcome!