

ROMANS: PART 19 EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

Abraham: Justified Through Faith -- Not By Law
Romans 4:13-17a

The Context.

1. Gospel of Justification Defined. Rom 3:21-26.
2. Gospel of Justification Defended. Rom 3:27-31.
3. Gospel of Justification Demonstrated. Rom 4:1ff.

The Principle: Abraham did not receive salvation through works of the Law -- but through the righteousness that comes through faith. Rom 4:13.

1. The *promise*: Heirs of the world -- the *new* world. Heb 9:15; 11:9,13,16; Lk 20:35; Eph 6:3; I Pet 1:4; Rev 21:7.
2. The *descendants* of Abraham: Everyone who believes -- see Rom 4:11,12. These are the recipients of the promise.
3. The basis of receiving the promised salvation: Not law-works but faith-righteousness.

The Reasons why the promise of salvation cannot be obtained through works of the Law.
Rom 4:14,15.

1. If salvation is by law then faith is *voided* out (made ineffectual, of no effect, a waste of time).
 - ◆ The principle of works & the principle of faith are mutually exclusive.
 - ◆ To accept one is to reject the other.
 - ◆ Law is man-directed -- faith is Christ-directed.
2. If salvation is by law then the promise is nullified (made useless, none productive, emptied).
 - ◆ If you approach God on the basis of works -- the promise of heaven is gone!
 - ◆ Paul offers no hypothetical argument: If the inheritance comes through works -- no inheritance!
3. If salvation is by law then we are all lost because the Law brings wrath!
 - ◆ Rather than achieving heaven through works of the law -- we reap eternal destruction.
 - ◆ The law is like a mirror -- it *shows* you who you are, but it cannot *change* you.
 - ◆ The law proves just how sinful we really are. Where there is law, there *must* be sin.
 - ◆ The only way to have no violation of law is to have no law.

The Reasons why the promise of salvation can be obtained through faith. Rom 4:16,17a.

1. Faith (in Christ) makes salvation dependent upon God's grace.
 - ◆ I trust in the unmerited favor of God -- rather than seeking to merit His favor.
 - ◆ Love -- Grace -- Mercy all are freely given by God -- and freely received.
2. Faith (in Christ) makes salvation certain (sure).
 - ◆ If salvation were based upon your honesty -- how honest would you have to be?
 - ◆ If salvation were based upon your purity -- how pure would you have to be?
 - ◆ If salvation were based upon holiness & reverence -- how much would you have to have?
 - ◆ Since salvation is based upon the perfect unstained God-accepted work of Christ -- you can be sure that if you trust in Him you will be saved!
3. Faith (in Christ) means salvation is offered to all