

ROMANS: PART 20
EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL
AUGUST 20, 1995

Abraham's Faith & Ours
Romans 4:17-25

The Context: The Gospel Explained. Rom 1:18-4:25.

1. God's Righteous Condemnation of Unrighteous People. Rom 1:18-3:20.
 - ◆ God's condemnation of the *Pagan* person. 1:18-32.
 - ◆ God's condemnation the *Moral* person. 2:1-16.
 - ◆ God's condemnation of the *Religious* person. 2:17-3:8.
 - ◆ God's condemnation of *All* persons. 3:9-17.
2. God's Righteous Justification of Unrighteous People. Rom 3:21-4:25.
 - ◆ Gospel of Justification *Defined*. 3:21-26.
 - ◆ Gospel of Justification *Defended*. 3:27-31.
 - ◆ Gospel of Justification *Demonstrated*. 4:1ff.

The Nature of Abraham's Faith. Rom 4:17-19.

1. Abraham believed in the Promise of God Who (Vs 17):
 - ◆ gives life to the dead (His resurrection power)
 - ◆ calls into being that which does not exist (His creation power)
2. Concerning God's Creation power (Vs 18) Abraham hoped that God:
 - ◆ would make him a "*father of many nations*" by the act of His word. Gen 15:5; 1:7,9,11ff
 - ◆ would do this, though humanly speaking, it was hopeless -- he had no children.
3. Concerning God's Resurrection power (Vs 19) Abe didn't weaken in faith. He believed God:
 - ◆ would make him a "*father of many nations*"
 - ◆ would do this, though his body & Sarah's were as good as dead (reproductively).

The Trail of Abraham's Faith. Rom 4:20-22.

1. Abraham grew in faith:
 - ◆ he went from wavering faith...Cf. Gen 16,20
 - ◆ to growing faith...Cf. Gen 15,17,18
 - ◆ to full assurance. Cf. Gen 22.
2. Abraham was declared righteous
 - ◆ he believed in the coming Messiah.
 - ◆ Cf. Gal 3:6-9; Jn 8:56

The Imitation of Abraham's Faith. Rom 4:23-25.

1. Abraham's reckoned righteousness is also available to us.
2. Like Abraham we believe in a resurrecting God -- Who "*raised Christ from the dead.*"
 - ◆ God delivered Him over (on behalf of) our sins -- a substitute.
 - ◆ God raised Him up because of our justification -- God was satisfied with His payment.
3. We believe in Christ as "*Lord*"
 - ◆ In Christ I become a new creation.
 - ◆ In Christ I will also be raised from the dead.