

# *The Epistle of Paul to the* **ROMANS**

*"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"*

## **Chapter Four : Abraham - Our Example of Justification by Faith**

### **I. What do we observe about the salvation experience of Abraham?**

- v3     A) Abraham believed (to trust or to take the right hand of one who is stronger)  
            God. (See Genesis 15:4-6)
1. His faith in God was imputed (to ascribe goodness to a person as coming from another) to him for righteousness. God imputed righteousness to Abraham because he trusted in God and His Word.
- v2     2. No boasting in his righteousness because it was given to him as a gift.
- v4     3. Earning the reward of righteousness (even if man could) would obligate God to pay what is due the worker. God is no man's debtor.
- v5     4. The faith of a person immerses that one into God's plan for redemption, and therefore allows for the imputation (exchange) of God's righteousness for their unrighteousness.
- v6-8   B) David also understood the imputation of righteousness apart from works.  
            (Ps 32:1,2) (2 Sam 12:13-16)
- 2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.
- Psalm 32:1-2 ....Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.
- C) When did Abraham believe?
- Gen 12:1-4   1. At age 75 he first trusted God and began his journey to receive God's promise.
- Gen 15:6     2. At age 85, 14 years before the seal of circumcision, it is stated that " he believed in the LORD and He (God) counted it (faith) to him (Abraham) for righteousness".
3. 430 years before the Law was given to Moses.
- Gen 17:5     4. Abraham was circumcised at age 99. Name changed from Abram to Abraham
5. Abraham lived to the age of 175.
- v11     6. The sign of circumcision was given as a seal of the covenant he already had.
- Sign**=Token
- Seal**=Protection from misappropriation, or a stamp impressed as a mark of privacy or genuineness.
- Righteousness = Innocence** or Justification.

### **II. What do we observe about the salvation experience of all others?**

- v12     A. Those who walk in the same steps of faith as Abraham receive the same imputation of righteousness: Forgiveness of sins and being put in a right relationship with God.
- B. This gift of grace is available to all who will trust God and His Word.
- v13     1. The promise to Abraham (and all believers) was not through the Law (the Law came 430 years later), but is received through faith (trust in God).

- v17 2. The promise was to "all nations"(races). (Genesis 17:5)
- v18 C. True faith (like Abraham's) believes God even when the promise seems impossible. Gen 15:4-6; 18:10; 21:1-3
- v18 1. Against hope = Contrary to reasonable expectation.
- v18 2. Believed in hope = Trusted to receive the expectation according to what God said. Hebrews 11:1
- v20 3. It does not hesitate or waver as it proceeds in the promised direction.
- v20 4. It gives strength to obey (empowered by God's faithfulness). 1 Thes 5:23,24
- v20 5. It follows through to the conclusion. Hebrews 11:13, 39; Genesis 22:18
- v21 6. It knows the power of God to perform that which He promises. Gen 22:2-18.

### **III. What do we observe about the parallel between the Abrahamic Covenant and the New Covenant?**

- A. The Abrahamic Covenant of faith was recorded to show the way of the New Covenant.
- B. Abraham believed that God had power over death, and that He could call that which is dead to be alive by the power of His Word. (Lazarus-John 11:33,44) Hebrews 11:17-19
- C. Believers under the New Covenant believe that God has raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. (Acts 2:22-24; Romans 10:9)
1. Jesus was delivered (surrendered or yielded up) for our offenses (whether unintentional error or willful transgression).
2. Jesus was raised from the dead (victory over death , the curse of sin) for our justification (acquittal for Christ's sake). That is - considered innocent of the offense of our sin because Christ has taken the penalty of death (separation from God) on Himself.
- D. Just as Abraham's belief and trust in God and His Word was imputed to him equal to righteousness, so believers today, who trust in God and His Word, are considered righteous in their standing before a holy God. Hebrews 11:6  
Impute = To ascribe goodness to a person as coming from another.
- E. Conclusion - In the same way that Abraham believed that God was able to keep His promise to make many descendants of him by raising his son Isaac from the dead (if necessary), believers today trust in the promise of God to provide forgiveness of sins and eternal life to sinners by the sacrifice of His life and raising of Jesus Christ, the sinless son of God, from the dead.

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*