

Session #14: “STRENGTHENED IN FAITH”— *Romans 4:16-25*

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- Do you consider yourself to be of the faith of Abraham? Is Abraham your father? Abram? (Gen. 17:5) How many spiritual fatherhoods do you have? (1 Cor. 4:15)
- Do you believe there is any person beyond the power of God’s saving grace?
- Are you saved by your faith or by God’s grace (actually God’s grace is appropriated by faith)?
- Are you fully convinced that what God has said He is faithful to complete? When will you, yourself, become fully righteous? Why is your righteousness in Christ always a sure thing?
- Are grace and faith congruous? How about grace and merit? When were you justified? When regenerated?
- Do all believers share Abraham’s inheritance? (*Gal. 3:16; 29*) What are two reasons we can be declared righteous as Abraham was? (*v. 25*)

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

Principle #1 - **CONDEMNATION** - 1:18-3:20

Principle #2 – **JUSTIFICATION** (Righteousness) - 3:21-5:21

(How can a sinful person be righteous before a holy God?)

1A. **DEPENDENT UPON THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST** (justified freely through grace) - 3:21-31

2A. **DESCRIBED IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM** - 4:1-15

1B. **REWARDED** without works - 4:1-8

2B. **RECEIVED** without circumcision (24 years before circumcision) - 4:9-12

3B. **REALIZED** without the law (430 years before the law was given) - 4:13-15

4B. **RESULTED through faith - 4:16-25**

Rom 4:16 ***Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all***

“*Therefore it is of faith*” - on account of this - cf. *1:17* - “*from faith*” - Greek: *ek* - NIV - adds the words “*the promise*”; cf. *Eph. 2:8*

1C. **The Reason** - 16-18 - “*that the promise might be sure to all the seed*” - “*sure*” - Greek: *bebaiian* – If it was based on man’s works, then the promise would not be sure! - NIV - “*guaranteed to all*”

1D. **Based on God’s provision** – 16 - “*to grace*” - **Grace guarantees what works can never do!** - cf. *Eph. 2:7* - His supply never runs out! Spurgeon – faith and grace are congruous and will draw together in the same chariot, but grace and merit are contrary, the one to the other and pull in opposite ways, therefore God has not chosen to yoke them together.

Newell--Salvation is of God, not of man. It is of faith, and so, of grace; and thus, of God. For faith is unmixed with the vain promises and hopes of man to accomplish “his part”; but looks to what God has done, in sending His Son, to do a finished work on the cross; and to the fact that God has raised up Christ; and that Christ is our unfailing High Priest in heaven!

Rom 4:17 (as it is written, “*I have made you **a father of many nations**”*) in the presence of Him whom he believed--***God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;***

2D. **Based on God’s power** – 17 - cf. *Gen. 17:4-5* - “*a father of many nations*”

1E. **Seen in resurrection** - “*God, Who gives life to the dead*” - cf. *Gen. 17:1* - he was 99 yrs old! Sarah’s womb was dead!

2E. **Seen in creation** - “*and calls those things which do not exist as though they did*”

Rom 4:18 **who, contrary to (human) hope, in hope believed**, so that he became the father of many nations, **according to what was spoken**, "So shall your descendants be."

3D. Based on God's **promise** – 18 – "**who, contrary to hope, in hope believed**" - cf. **Heb. 6:13-20** - Promises **depend on the character and reliability** of the One Who made them - it demands only faith as a response! - "**according to what was spoken**" - **God's Word is the issue!** - cf. **Hebrews 11:11-12** - "**she judged Him faithful Who had promised**" (Her faith was based on what God had said!)

2C. The **Response of Abraham** to the obstacles he faced - 19-21

Rom 4:19 And **not being weak in faith**, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

1D. The **condition of his body** and **his wife's womb** – 19 - "**not being weak in faith**" cf. **Gen. 17:15-21; 18:11-14** (From a human point we see the struggle with God's promise!)

Rom 4:20 He **did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief**, but was strengthened in faith, **giving glory to God**,

Rom 4:21 and **being fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

2D. **His confidence in God's promise** never wavered - 20-21 - 1E. Seen in his **acceptance** of what God said - "**did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief**" - cf. **Acts 27:21-25** **Abraham believed in what God said He WOULD do. We believe in what Christ HAS DONE for us!**

2E. Seen in **his attitude** - "**giving glory to God**" - cf. **Daniel 3:16-18**

3E. Seen in **his assurance** - "**being fully convinced**"

Rom 4:22 And **therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."**

Rom 4:23 Now it **was not written for his sake alone** that it was imputed to him,

Rom 4:24 but **also for us**. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

Rom 4:25 who was **delivered up because of our offenses**, and **was raised because of our justification**.

3C. The **Results** - 22-25

1D. **For Abraham** – 22 - Faith does not merit salvation, but simply accepts it from God's gracious hand!

2D. **For all who believe** - 23-25 - cf. **Rom. 15:4** - The **reason we can be declared righteous as Abraham was:**

1E. **Jesus Christ was "delivered up because of our offences"**

2E. **Jesus Christ was "was raised because of our justification"** – He was delivered up for the purpose of declaring you who believe, righteous, and further, of giving you a place, previously unknown, to be in Christ, one with Him before God forever, loved as Christ is loved, seen in all the perfectness and beauty of Christ Himself, glorified with Him, associated with Him as companions, that He might be the First-born among many brethren! (Newell)

Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 17:5-8, 16; Gal. 3:16, 29; Rev. 21:5,6