

ROMANS 4:1-25

- **Romans**

by faith...

- o We
by our
works –
keep
- o Even
foresaw

- o That
was the
cross of

- o Where

paying
SIN of

- o And
GRACE

3:21-31 –
Righteousness

cannot be saved
own good
by trying to
the LAW...

the LAW
the need for a
BETTER way –
Deuteronomy

31:26-29
BETTER way
work of the
Christ...

God showed His
JUSTICE - by
the penalty for
the cross
also showed His
- by giving us

His RIGHTEOUSNESS...

- o Therefore - there is no more boasting [we did not do anything]
- o We were saved by GRACE through FAITH in the finished work of Jesus...
- o Not that we reject the LAW – but through GRACE we now fulfill the Law!

● 1ST - EXAMPLES OF FAITH... vs. 1-8

- o 1st - Accounted...
 - Paul uses the word ACCOUNT [λογίζομαι] – ELEVEN times in this passage...
 - It is a FINANCIAL term – carrying the idea of PAYING a DEBT...
 - Paul is NOT questioning IF we have SIN – he has already stated ALL are sinners - **Romans 3:23**
 - The question is HOW do we PAY the DEBT we owe to God!
 - We tend to think of our SIN in reasonable terms – I owe God P1000...
 - But Jesus clarifies our DEBT to God is over TWO trillion pesos - **Matthew 18:24**
 - To put that number in perspective - if we earned P1000 a day...
 - It would take us over SIX million years to pay off our DEBT!
 - Paul spent THREE chapters establishing we CANNOT pay our DEBT by good works...
 - The only way to PAY for our sin – is through FAITH in Jesus Christ...
 - Paul now gives us and EXAMPLE of salvation by faith - in the life of Abraham!
- o 2nd - Abraham... vs. 1-5
 - Father... vs. 1
 - What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?
 - ABRAHAM was the FATHER of the Jewish nation – the FIRST Jew...
 - God gave the LAW to the JEWS – so how God saved the FIRST Jew is important...
 - Was he saved by WORKS [following the Law] – or by faith!
 - No Boasting... vs. 2
 - If Abraham was justified by works he has something to boast about - but not before God!
 - ABRAHAM was [indicative] an amazing man - he did some incredible things...
 - He was willing to LEAVE his country - and MOST of his family - **Genesis 12:1**
 - He defeated the FOUR armies of Babylon with just 318 men - **Genesis 14:15**
 - But in spite of what he did that was GOOD - he also made MISTAKES...
 - He did brought some family with him [Terah and Lot]
 - He also LIED about his life Sarah to the Pharaoh - **Genesis 12:13**
 - So although he did GOOD - he was NOT perfect - so could NOT boast to God!
 - Believe... vs. 3
 - For what does the Scripture say?
 - Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness!
 - When God promised to give Abraham children [he was around 75]
 - Not just ONE child - as many as the STARS in the heavens [200 sextillion]
 - Rather than DOUBTING - Abraham BELIEVED the Word of the Lord...
 - The Bible does NOT say he did GOOD works to become [active] RIGHTEOUS...
 - His faith was [passive] COUNTED [as payment for the debt] as RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - **Genesis 15:6** - “He believed in the LORD and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”
 - Grace... vs. 4
 - Now to him who works the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.
 - But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly.
 - His faith is accounted for righteousness!
 - If someone works - and they are paid a WAGE - it is NOT a gift...
 - But when something is freely given – NOT earned – then it becomes a GIFT...

- Abraham did not EARN his salvation [works] – God gave him salvation [gift]
- God justified an UNGODLY man – not because he deserved it – but through GRACE!
- We do NOT deserve to go to heaven – we do NOT earn our salvation
- No one will ever get to heaven because they worked hard to get there...
- We go because we BELIEVE and RECEIVE the promise of the God who DIED to save us!

o 2nd - King David... vs. 6-8

- Greatest king...
 - Among Kings of Israel none were as important as King David – greatest king of Israel
 - So the same question must be asked - was he justified by works or faith!
- Blessed man... vs. 6-7
 - Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man!
 - To whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:
 - Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven and whose sins are covered!
 - King David was a GOOD man – a good GODLY man – but NOT perfect...
 - So he wrote - BLESSED [oh how happy] - **Psalm 32:1-2**
 - Is the man who to whom God ACCOUNTS [λογίζομαι] as [passive] RIGHTEOUS...
 - Not because of what he DID - but APART from good works...
 - BLESSED is the man whose SINS are [passive] COVERED!
 - He saw a MARRIED woman from his rooftop bathing [Bathsheba]
 - He had an AFFAIR with her [sin] - and when she became pregnant..
 - He conspired to have her husband murdered [sin] to try and hide it!
- Not counted... vs. 8
 - Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin!
 - David was REALLY happy [blessed] to realize that God NEVER [οὐ μὴ subjunctive]
 - ACCOUNTS [λογίζομαι] sin - to those who REPENT and TRUST in Him!
 - When Nathan the prophet confronted David about his SINS...
 - David CONFESSED - and REPENTED before the LORD...
 - As a result he was told he was the Lord had taken away his SIN - **II Samuel 12:13**
 - Not because he DESERVED to be forgiven [he deserved death]
 - But by GRACE - he became a man after Gods own heart [humble]!
 - If we HAD stand before God ACCOUNTABLE for our actions – works – thoughts...
 - It will be a VERY bad day – we will not be happy [extreme understatement]
 - But if we stand before God – and our SINS are NOT remembered [forgiven]
 - That is a VERY good day – we will be very happy because it means we go to heaven!

● 2ND - PROMISE THROUGH FAITH... vs. 9-25

o 1st - Father of all... vs. 9-15

- Evidence of Faith... vs. 9-10
 - Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only or upon the uncircumcised also?
 - For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.
 - How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised - or uncircumcised?
 - Not while circumcised - but while uncircumcised!
 - Circumcision was the SIGN God gave to Israel they were His people...
 - God gave the PROMISE of Circumcision to Abraham [first Jew] – **Genesis 17:4**
 - But Abraham believed - and was ACCOUNTED righteous – **Genesis 15:6**
 - Abraham was made righteous by FAITH – before the covenant of Circumcision...
 - Therefore he was NOT made RIGHTEOUS by being circumcised [following the Law]
 - Circumcision was the SIGN God had already made him RIGHTEOUS by his FAITH!

- Much like a DIPLOMA does NOT mean that you are smarter...
- But it does represent that fact that you have taken the time to study and learn!
- Doing GOOD things does not make us RIGHTEOUS ...
- If we are RIGHTEOUS - by FAITH – we will do GOOD things...
- The PROOF of our FAITH is a life that is transformed...
- GOOD works reveal a GOOD heart that has been SAVED by Grace through faith in Jesus!
- For everyone... vs. 11-12
 - [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision.
 - A seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised.
 - That he might be the father of all those who believe - though they are uncircumcised.
 - That righteousness might be imputed to them also.
 - And the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision.
 - Who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while uncircumcised!
 - Since Abraham was made RIGHTEOUS before circumcision – he is a FATHER to us all...
 - Not pointing us to the LAW – but rather to FAITH...
 - His example is ANYONE can receive the promise of heaven by GRACE...
 - Whether JEW or GENTILE – Abraham is the EXAMPLE for us all!
 - God does NOT care where we came from - what our background was...
 - We can be RICH or POOR - we can be GOOD or BAD...
 - God LOVE everyone - and will receive ANYONE - who believes on Him!
- Not by works... vs. 13-15
 - For the promise that he would be the heir of the world.
 - Was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law - but through the righteousness of faith.
 - If those who are of the law are heirs - faith is made void and the promise made of no effect.
 - Because the law brings about wrath - for where there is no law there is no transgression!
 - God did NOT make the promise to ABRAHAM or his SEED [Israel]
 - That they would INHERIT the world by keeping the LAW...
 - Instead they were given the PROMISE through FAITH...
 - Because if only those who keep the LAW [rules] could inherit eternal life...
 - Then FAITH would have no purpose - and the cross would be meaningless - **Galatians 2:21**
 - But the LAW only brings WRATH - because without the LAW - there is NO sin!
 - There are a lot of different ideas about how to get to heaven...
 - Countless RELIGIONS that try to convince us – we can EARN our way to heaven...
 - But RULES do nothing to pay back the DEBT of our SIN...
 - And wide is the path that leads to destruction – many go in by it - **Matthew 7:13**
 - There is only ONE way that takes us into heaven - and it is through FAITH!
- o 2nd - Impossible promise... vs. 16-22
 - The promise... vs. 16-18
 - 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.
 - As it is written: I have made you a father of many nations!
 - God had given Abraham the promise of being the father of many nations...
 - God went so far as to say his descendants would be – as the stars in the heavens...
 - Yet Abram still had NO son – his HEIR was his servant Eliezer - **Genesis 15:2**
 - It is easy to see why Abram might have a hard time believing the promise!
 - Sometimes circumstances can get the best of us – it is hard to focus on Jesus...
 - There is nothing wrong with having honest doubt...

- We cannot fool God – we can say we believe and trust Him – but He sees the heart
- Better to be honest with the Lord – talk to Him if there are doubts!
- Look up... vs. 16-18
 - 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.
 - Who contrary to hope - in hope believed - so that he became the father of many nations.
 - According to what was spoken: So shall your descendants be!
 - God brought Abram outside – said to him LOOK (imperative) to the heavens...
 - Look up - the answer to the doubts of Abram – look up - **Genesis 15:5**
 - Getting the right perspective – because what we look at determines what we see!
 - Jesus came walking out on the wind and the waves to the disciples - **Matthew 14:29**
 - And Peter could walk on water so long as he kept his eyes on Jesus...
 - But the moment he started looking at the wind and the waves – he sank!
 - It is all about perspective – if we are looking at the waves - we see the impossible...
 - If we are looking UP to Jesus – we believe nothing is impossible!
 - **Matthew 17:20** – “If ye have faith... nothing shall be impossible unto you.”
- Believe... vs. 19-22
 - 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.
 - He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief.
 - But was strengthened in faith - giving glory to God.
 - And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
 - And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness!
 - Abram KNEW that what the Lord promised him was IMPOSSIBLE...
 - But he did NOT consider his own body – he did NOT waver in unbelief...
 - He was a HUNDRED years old – well past the age when he could father children...
 - Sarai was NINETY years old – well past the age when she could have children...
 - And if he had LOOKED at his circumstances he would have been filled with DOUBT...
 - But by looking up – strengthened by faith - he BELIEVED God could do the impossible...
 - BELIEVE – [אָמַן in OT – Hebrew equivalent for FAITH - also translated as TRUST...
 - This is the first time that we see that Abram TRUSTED the Lord...
 - Up to this point Abram listened - but now he truly believed the Word of the Lord!
 - It can be easy for us to get frustrated when someone does not BELIEVE in the Gospel...
 - But salvation in many ways is a process – we rarely get things the first time we hear them...
 - Often the Lord has to repeat Himself – sometimes many times...
 - Before a person really come to the place where they believe what God says!
 - God is VERY patient – He will work for a lifetime to win someone over to Him!
- o 3rd - For our sake... vs. 23-25
 - Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him - but also for us.
 - It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.
 - Who was delivered up because of our offenses - and was raised because of our justification!
 - The example of Abraham was NOT written for his benefit – but for ours...
 - It is IMPOSSIBLE - for Jesus to be resurrected from the dead...
 - It is IMPOSSIBLE for our SINS to be forgiven – and be counted as sinless...
 - It is IMPOSSIBLE for sinners to go to heaven – yet God has PROMISED us all these things!
 - Are we struggling with doubt and fear – look up...
 - That is when we see the Lord who is the God of the impossible...
 - If we believe – like Father Abraham – we also are COUNTED as righteous...

- We get to see that our God is indeed the God of the impossible!