

Romans 4:1-25

- The doctrine of Grace - Chapters 1-8
 - All have sinned - Chapters 1-3
 - Saved by faith alone - Chapters 4-5
 - Victory over sin - Chapters 6-8
- Apart from the Law...
 - Having established God is NOT partial - He will JUDGE everyone [Jew and Gentile]
 - That it does NOT matter what LABEL we give to ourselves [what religion]
 - And the ONLY purpose of the LAW is to establish that we are SINNERS – **Romans 3:20**
 - We can see being RIGHT with God [righteous] is REVEALED apart from the LAW [νόμος]
 - Being WITNESSED by the Law and the Prophets [Old Testament] - **Deuteronomy 31:26-29**
- Justified by Grace...
 - This NEW Covenant – is accessed through FAITH [πίστις] in Jesus – **Ephesians 2:8**
 - And is available to ALL – because there is NO difference - ALL have sinned...
 - By FAITH we are JUSTIFIED - just as though we had NEVER sinned...
 - FREELY [δωρεάν] – the word means to without COST - by GRACE [χάρις]
 - God COVERED [Mercy Seat] our sin by His BLOOD [the cross]
 - So that He would be both JUST – there is a consequence for SIN – **Romans 3:23**
 - And the JUSTIFIER [pass over the sins] of those who put their FAITH in Christ!
- No Boasting...
 - Therefore [οὖν] – since we are JUSTIFIED as a GIFT from God...
 - We do NOT have anything we can BOAST about – we did NOT do any of the WORK...
 - NOT that we have done AWAY with the LAW – **Romans 7:12**
 - Instead we are finally able to FULFILL the LAW – because God changes our HEART!
- 1ST – EXAMPLES OF FAITH... vs. 1-8
 - Accounted...
 - Paul uses the word ACCOUNT [λογίζομαι] – ELEVEN times in this chapter...
 - 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...
 - To make that POINT – Paul goes on to give TWO examples of FATH!
 - 1st – Father Abraham... vs. 1-5
 - First Jew... 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 [physically] – **Genesis 17:5**

- 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...
- Therefore [οὐν] – which way would [future] we say he FOUND [perfect]!
- No Boasting... vs. 2
 - If Abraham was justified by works he has something to boast about - but not before God!
 - IF was JUSTIFIED [indicative] by [ἐκ] his GOOD works...
 - Then he has [present] a reason to BOAST - but [ἀλλά] not before God...
 - ABRAHAM was 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 Pharoah - **Genesis 12:13**
 - So although he did GOOD - he was NOT perfect - so could NOT boast to God!
- By Faith... vs. 3
 - For what does the Scripture say?
 - Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness!
 - What does the BIBLE [γραφή] say about Abraham...
 - He put his FAITH [πιστεύω] in God – and it was COUNTED [λογίζομαι] to him as...
 - RIGHTEOUSNESS [δικαιοσύνη] – noun form of the verb to be JUSTIFIED [δικαιόω]
 - So by FAITH Abraham was JUSTIFIED [just as if he never sinned]!
 - 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 his debt] as RIGHTEOUSNESS!
 - **Genesis 15:6** - “He believed in the LORD and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”
- By Grace... vs. 4-5
 - 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 are paid a WAGE - it is NOT counted [λογίζομαι] as GIFT [χάρις]
 - But something is FREELY given – NOT earned – becomes a GIFT...
 - When someone does NOT work – but has FAITH in one who JUSTIFIES the UNGODLY...
 - And that FAITH gets COUNTED [λογίζομαι] as RIGHTEOUSNESS [δικαιοσύνη]
 - When God justifies the UNGODLY – not because they deserved it – that is GRACE!
 - We do NOT want to get what we have EARNED...
 - Because what everyone of us DESERVE – is SEPARATION from God – **Romans 6:23**
 - And there is NO amount of GOOD works that will ever pay back our DEBT...
 - That is why we need GRACE – we want the GIFT of God...
 - And the ONLY way to get it – to be RIGHTEOUS – is to receive it by FAITH!
- o 2nd - King David... vs. 6-8
 - Blessed man... vs. 6
 - Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man.
 - To whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

- 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...
- David was a GOOD man – a good GODLY man – but NOT perfect...
- So he wrote - BLESSED [oh how happy] - **Psalms 32:1-2**
- Is the man who to whom God ACCOUNTS [λογίζομαι] as [passive] RIGHTEOUS [δικαιосύνη]
- NOT because of what he DID - but APART from good works!

- The INIQUITY [singular] of David was one of the most infamous SINS in the Bible...
- He saw a MARRIED woman from his rooftop bathing [Bathsheba] – **II Samuel 11:5**
- 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. 7-8

- Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven and whose sins are covered.
- Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin!
- BLESSED is the man whose INIQUITY [singular in Hebrew] is FORGIVEN [passive]
- The man whose SIN [singular in Hebrew] is COVERED [passive]
- 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 WORKS...
- 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

○ 1ST – Grace for 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!
- How does this BLESSEDNESS that King David spoke of come...
- Does it ONLY come on the CIRCUMCISION [religious] – or also on the UNCIRCUMCISION...
- FAITH was COUNTED [λογίζομαι] to ABRAHAM as RIGHTEOUSNESS...
- HOW was it COUNTED [λογίζομαι] - NOT while circumcised BUT [ἀλλά] uncircumcised!
- God gave the PROMISE of Circumcision to Abraham [the 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!
- 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 – **James 2:18**
- GOOD works are the EVIDENCE 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!
 - Abraham was given the SIGN [σημεῖον] of CIRCUMCISION – **Genesis 17:4**
 - As the SEAL [mark] that he became RIGHTEOUS by FAITH while still UNCIRCUMCISED...
 - So that he might be the FATHER of ALL [πᾶς] who believe [πιστεύω]
 - Those who are UNCIRCUMCISED – and COUNTED [λογίζομαι] as RIGHTEOUS...
 - And those who are CIRCUMCISED – but [ἀλλὰ] WALK [present] in FAITH like Abraham did...
 - Because 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 LOVEA 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!
 - For God did NOT make the promise to ABRAHAM or his SEED [child]
 - That they would INHERIT the world by keeping the LAW [νόμος]
 - BUT [ἀλλὰ] they were given the PROMISE through the righteousness of FAITH [πίστις]
 - Because if only those who keep the LAW [νόμος] could inherit eternal life...
 - Then FAITH would have NO purpose [void] - the cross would be meaningless - **Galatians 2:21**
 - But the LAW only brings WRATH [judgement] - 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 take 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!
 - Therefore – the PROMISE comes through FAITH by GRACE [χάρις]
 - So for CERTAIN the PROMISE is for ALL [πᾶς] of the CHILDREN [σπέρμα]
 - NOT just those who have the Law [νόμος] – but also those who have the FAITH of Abraham...
 - Because God gave him the promise of being the father of MANY nations – **Genesis 17:5**
 - God went so far as to say his decedents 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 see HOW God will work it out...
 - There is NOTHING wrong with having honest DOUBT...

- We CANNOT fool God – 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 gave the PROMISE to Abraham – and he BELIEVED [indicative]
 - He BELIEVED in the God who could bring LIFE to the DEAD [Abraham was old]
 - He BELIEVED in the God who can call [Isaac] those who do NOT exist [yet]
 - CONTRARY [παρά] to HOPE – he in FAITH [active] had HOPE...
 - That he would be the FATHER of many NATIONS – according [κατά] to what the Lord said!
 - God brought Abram outside – said to him LOOK [imperative] to the heavens...
 - The answer to the doubts of Abram – was to look up - **Genesis 15:5**
 - Getting the right perspective – because what we look at determines what we see!
 - 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 was NOT weak in FAITH – he did NOT consider [κατανοέω] his own body...
 - 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 bear children...
 - Yet he did NOT judge [διακρίνω] the PROMISE of God through a LACK of faith [ἀπιστία]
 - BUT [ἀλλά] by looking up he was STRONG [passive] in FAITH...
 - Fully convinced [passive] that God was able to do what He had PROMISED...
 - Therefore he was COUNTED [λογίζομαι] to him as RIGHTEOUSNESS – **Genesis 15:6**
 - Because he BELIEVED – [ᾤκνησεν] first time the word FAITH [believe] is used in the Bible!
 - God has NOT promised to give us CHILDREN as the STARS...
 - But what He has promised is NO less IMPOSSIBLE...
 - He has said He will take away ALL of our SINS – bring us to HEAVEN...
 - And if we stop and consider who we are [dead in our sins] – we will DOUBT...
 - But the question is if like Abraham – we are willing to BELIEVE...
 - Not looking at who we are – but trusting in what God has said!
- 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!
 - God did NOT write that He COUNTED [λογίζομαι] Abraham RIGHTEOUS for his benefit alone...
 - BUT [ἀλλὰ] also for us – would also be COUNTED [λογίζομαι] RIGHTEOUS...
 - If we BELIEVE [present] that God raised up Jesus from the DEAD...
 - Who was CRUCIFIED for of our SINS – and RAISED up for our JUSTIFICATION!
 - 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!