

ROMANS CHAPTER 4

Abraham and David prove Paul's teaching.

They were both accounted righteous by Faith and not by works of the Law.

Vs 1-8 Abraham and David declared righteous

Vs 1 Paul is still focusing on the Jewish believers in the Church. (Our forefathers according to the flesh)
Chapter 3 begins with "What advantage has the Jew?"
Chapter 4 begins with "What then, shall we say about Abraham?"
What did Abraham do to be declared righteous before God?

Vs 2 If Abraham was justified by works (he was not); he would have something to boast about among men but not before God!

Vs 3 What was Abraham's Experience? Gen 15:1-6

- The honor goes to God, not Abraham.
He did the one thing that a man can do without doing anything.
God made a promise. Gen 12:3
Abraham accepted it.
- Abraham's faith was not an act, but an attitude.
- We will see in verses 17-22 that he turned completely away from himself to God and His promise.
This left God free to fulfill that promise.
- Abraham's life experience was progressive.
His pattern was to believe and that belief grew.
Gen 12:1-4; 15:1-21; 17:1-27; 22:1-19; Heb 11:8-10

(Romans chapter 4 continued)

Vs 4-5 Now – Application or Observation

- To a man that works for wages, the wages are due as a debt.

- To the one who “does not work” but (contract) believes in Him –
IN WHO – the GOD WHO JUSTIFIES the ungodly,
God RECKONS to him Righteousness. Rom 9:30 – 10: 4
 1. Who is ungodly? Rom 3:23; Eph 2:1-2
 2. Who did Jesus die for? Jn 3:16
 3. Anyone in the world who believes is reckoned as
Righteous. Rom 3:22

Vs 6-8 David’s Experience Mirrors Abraham’s
Man’s Pre-Christ experience was different than ours.
The Lord did not take into account an OT Believer’s sin
because they were covered.
With us, they have been taken away. Heb 9:23-28; 10:1-18

PLEASE NOTE: Paul is talking about “righteousness apart from (without)
Works.

Who will the Lord not take their sin into account? Heb 10:17-18
The one who believes!

Vs 9-12 Religious Rites have nothing to do with a person being
declared Righteous. (Circumcision/OT and Baptism/NT)

The Timing of the Rite of Circumcision

- Abraham is declared righteous when he was nearly 75 years old.
Gen 12:4; 15:6

- Abraham lived in the land of Canaan for 10 years before fathering
Ishmael. Gen 16:3

(Romans chapter 4 continued)

- Abraham was 86 years old when Ishmael was born.
Gen 16:16
- Abraham was 99 years old when God told him to circumcise His household. Gen 17:1,7-14 esp vs 23-25
- Conclusion:
Circumcision was the result of Abraham being declared righteous, not the cause.
Baptism is the result of being saved, not the basis for being saved.
- Abraham was declared righteous when he was a Gentile, (uncircumcised).
vs 12 The father of the Jew IF the Jew also exercises FAITH.

NOTE GAL 4:12: Paul is speaking to Gentiles who are questioning whether they should be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses. Paul tells them “Become as I am, for I have become as you are”. Paul left the Mosaic Law and Circumcision behind. Oh that they would continue in their Christianity without it!

Paul’s teaching:

The blessing of righteousness comes not only without works, but also without ordinances.

To be a Jew or a Gentile was not the question.

To be a BELIEVER is the question!

(See Insert: Abraham Timeline)

(See Insert: The Law)

(Romans chapter 4 continued)

- Vs 13 Adam became a part of a fallen race.
Believers become a part of the “heir of the world” race.
Believers are no longer of the SEED OF ADAM but are
Of the SEED OF ABRAHAM.
SIMPLE FAITH PRODUCES THE TRANSITION.
- Vs 14 Faith and Law are contradictory principles.
It is one or the other.
If the law has any part in producing the heir, then...
FAITH IS MADE VOID.
- Vs 15 The ministry of the Law 2 Cor 3-11
- Vs 16 For this reason (The Law does not contribute to Righteousness).
It (becoming an heir) is by faith (alone),
That (becoming an heir) is received on the basis of grace, with
The result that the promise is certain(CAN KNOW
1 Jn 5:11-13)
to all the descendants, not only to the Jews but also to all
humans who have exercised the faith of Abraham, who is the
father of those who believe.
- Vs 17-22 A Detailed Description of the Experience and Mind of Abraham
The promises of God are to Abraham and to his Seed Gal 3:16
Anyone who belongs to Christ is an offspring of Abraham and
therefore an heir according to the promise Gal 3:29 Gen 12:3
God gave the promises to Abraham; Christ fulfilled the
conditions (of redemption), and we share the benefits.
The verse ends with “God making alive dead ones, and calling

things not being, being”.

(Romans chapter 4 continued)

- Vs 18 In hope, against hope, he believed desiring the promise that God offered. Heb 11:13, 39-40
- Vs 19-21 What was Abraham thinking?
Think of the circumstances: Sarah is beyond the ability to have children (91 years old). Gen 17:17
- Vs 20-21 What was Abraham thinking?
- Vs 22 Therefore, also, along with receiving the worldly promise, he received the eternal promise.
- Vs 23-24 God gives us the application for this truth:
“To whom it will be reckoned...who believe”
- Vs 25 He was delivered up for our transgressions
Rom 8:32; Isa 53
He was raised because of our justification. Rom 5:10

