



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Promises!

Romans 4:13-25

Message #9 of 33 – S1137

Sermon given on January 26, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Promises!

Romans 4:13-25

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 4**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

• **The Gospel of Promises!**

- From a very young age we learn the importance of promises.

Promise: assure someone that one will definitely do, give, or arrange something; undertake or declare that something will happen.

- Promises kept and broken are one of the main things we use to determine how much we trust other people.
- Someone who keeps their promises can be trusted and someone who breaks promises cannot be trusted.

Trust: firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

- This morning, we begin with a promise God made to Abraham.

• **Romans 4:13**

- God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.
- Abraham believed God could be trusted to keep His promise.
- Paul says the promise was not conditioned upon the Law of Moses.
- Abraham didn't have to do anything to compel God to keep His promise.
- Because Abraham had faith, he believed God and trusted Him to keep His promise, God imputed or credited to Abraham's spiritual account righteousness.

• **Romans 4:14-15**

- If keeping the law can make someone right with God, then they don't need faith and there is no promise.
- You can't be a lawbreaker if there are no laws. (**American Safety Council website**)

“Connecticut was the first state to pass a speed limit law back in 1901. This law limited the legal speed of motor vehicles to 12 mph in cities and 15 mph on country roads.”

- Transgression or sin is breaking God’s perfect Law.
- The consequence for breaking God’s laws is wrath.
- Paul then explains why faith is the key to salvation.
- **Romans 4:16**
- Paul says here that salvation by faith is the only way everyone has access to God’s free gift forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus.
- If they had to work their way to God’s righteousness then it would not be available to everyone, only those who could do the works.
- No matter how religious or irreligious you are, you are saved by faith in Christ and nothing else.
- No matter how good or bad you are, God saves you by grace through faith.
- No matter how rich or poor, famous or infamous, powerful or weak, God saves you by faith in Christ Jesus.
- No matter what gender you are, male or female, or even if you are confused about that, God saves by faith in Christ.
- Everyone, absolutely everyone has the same access to God’s gracious gift of salvation through faith (**2 Timothy 1:8-9**).

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began...

- Paul then comes back to Abraham’s faith.
- **Romans 4:17**
- Paul uses two descriptions of God that are unique to Him.
- First God gives life to the dead.
- The very best that man can do is resuscitate something that has died recently.
- Only God can resurrect the dead.
- In a way this is what God implied when He said that Abraham would be the father of many nations.

- Sarah's womb was dead, she had always been barren, and she was old, well beyond the time where she could bear a child.
- God can also call those things that do not exist as though they do.
- The creation account is a picture of that – God called the universe into existence where nothing existed prior His calling.
- Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fishes is another example of that.
- There is so much power for those who believe in God's creative power.
- The more you accept this is true, the more you will pray for those things that are impossible.
- Because they may be impossible to you, but they are not impossible for God. Pray big prayers.
- Paul describes the result of Abraham's faith.

- **Romans 4:18**

Hope: a looking forward to in confident expectation.

- Abraham and Sarah both wanted to have children. Most couples do.
- They were so far past hoping that would happen that only trusting God and believing in His promise could give them hope.
- God is the same today as He was when He made those promises to Abraham.
- God is still able to do the impossible.
- We can still take our impossible requests to God and know that He is able to give life to the dead and can summon that which does exist as though it does.
- We should acknowledge one caution with that.
- Abraham was hoping in a very specific promise God made to Him.
- God promised to make many nations through Abraham, Abraham believed, and God made many nations from Abraham.
- When we pray for impossible things, we probably won't have a specific promise from God about that thing.
- Our hope is based on the things God has promised.
- God has obligated Himself to keep His promises.
- He has not promised to give us everything we pray for.

- We should pray boldly for anything on our heart, but our hope is in His promises not in our prayers.
- **Romans 4:19**
- Abraham didn't evaluate his current reality before believing God for His promise.
- God created reality and He has the sovereign power and authority to change reality.
- Don't limit your prayers based on your understanding of reality.
- If there is something on your heart, no matter how impossible, pray about it.
- If you sense something missing in your life, no matter how big or small it might be, pray about it.
- If there is pain, suffering, or tribulations in your life, no matter what other people say about it, pray about it.
- Prayer is a vital part of the faith of a believer (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- Jesus also talked about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 7:7**).

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

- Literally saying ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. And then James exhorts about prayer (**James 4:2b**).

...you do not have because you do not ask.

- If you want God to answer your prayers, you need to pray and keep on praying until He does.
- **Romans 4:20-22**
- Faith that looks past reality to the matchless power of God and trusts Him for the things we cannot see gives God glory.
- And when, by faith, we trust God, He gives us the strength to keep going no matter how hopeless things might seem.
- If you are feeling hopeless, pray, ask for God's help and strength.
- Get into His Word and find every promise that relates to what you are struggling with and believe them.

- Get more connected to God's people and ask them to pray with you and help you find God's promises.
- Seek God and He will help you (**Jeremiah 29:11-13**).
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- Those are promises, believe them, and do it!
- **Romans 4:23-24**
- The Bible was given to us so that we can know God.
- It contains everything God has revealed to mankind about Himself.
- God inspired Moses to write down how God related to Abraham so that we all would know how God wants to relate to us.
- In the same way Abraham was made right with God through faith, we are made right with God through faith.
- God has never changed His plan about salvation.
- God made a promise to Abraham and because Abraham believed and trusted God to keep that promise, God credited Abraham with righteousness – Abraham was right with God by faith.
- God later sent His Son Christ Jesus so that He could die for the sins of the whole world.
- God then promised to forgive the sins of anyone who believed and put their trust in Christ's work on the cross.
- Paul reminds us what our faith is based upon.
- **Romans 4:25**
- Jesus died because of my offences – my sin – and yours.
- We should notice something that is subtle but important.
- Jesus went to the cross because we were sinners.
- His death is how we are saved.
- He was resurrected, not so that we could be justified, but because His death finished the work of justification, there was no reason for Him to stay dead.
- The resurrection was proof that we are justified through faith in Christ's atoning death.
- Jesus said right before He died, 'It is finished!'

- Jesus' resurrection is God saying, "I agree!"
- As believers, we ought to do our best to keep our promises.
- It would be better not to make a promise than make one and not keep it.
- God always keeps His promises.
- As believers, we have a huge advantage over people in the world.
- Our hope is built on the unbreakable promises of God.
- The world can be an unstable mess but faith in God can hold us fast no matter what junk the world might throw at us (**Hebrews 6:19-20**).

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even Jesus*, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- This world is not always going to play fair.
- There is disease, pandemics, corruption, and crime.
- There is hate, abuse, and violence, and many other things, like wildfires.
- Paul was familiar with difficult things, but he said this to the Ephesians elders (**Acts 20:22-24**).

And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

- Our faith is how we grip the chain of hope for the goodness of God.
- By faith we are right with God and are invited to come to Him anytime we need Him.
- If you are being buffeted, hold tight to your faith.
- Draw near to God and to His people.
- Trust God and pray! God always keeps His promises to His people.
- Keep trusting and keep praying!
- He hears you and in due time, He will answer!
- **Pray! Last Song!**