#### Romans 4:1-12 - The Gospel of Faith Alone!

Scriptures:

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say that Abraham our

Notes:

Paul uses Abraham as an example of the kind of faith that pleases God.

'according to the flesh' – What did he achieve through human effort?

father has found according to the flesh?

Scriptures:



Notes:

G1344 – put right with [God], declared righteous. "to be justified v. — to be or become judicially vindicated as having complied with the requirements of the law (of God)."

G2041 – one who does good.

has something to boast about, but not before

G2745 -



Genesis 15:1-6 -After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." 2 But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!' 4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said. "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

# <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham"

# believed God, and it was accounted to him for

G4100 - VAAI3S -

G3049 – credited to his account.

God then in Genesis 15:17 God declared that His promise to Abraham was unconditional. Regardless of what Abrahem or his descendants did, God was going to keep His promise to Abraham.

Quotation of Genesis 15:6. Paul is

saying that Abraham was justified

before God before he did any the

great works of righteousness. God

had just promised to give him a son

in his old age and to make him the

that they couldn't be counted.

father of a nation so great in number

Abraham didn't do anything to earn

believe that what God said was true.

the righteousness of God except

The Greek word that is translated 'accounted' appears eleven times in Romans 4. It has the idea of crediting to one's account. Abraham didn't earn God's approval through works of human effort but through faith. Paul illustrates that in the next several verses.

righteousness."

G1343 – what is right.

Scriptures:

## <sup>4</sup> Now to him who works, the wages are not

G3408 – compensation for work or services.

Notes:

Notes:

If you work at a job and they pay you, it would not be an act of grace on the part of your employer. They owe you those wages because you worked for them.

counted as grace but as debt.

G5485 -

G3783 – what is owed.

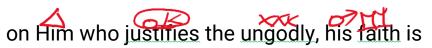
Hebrews 11:6 - Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Romans 5:6 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

## <sup>5</sup> But to him who does not work but believes

G4100 - think to be true, to believe, implying trust.



G1344 - put right with, justify, vindicate, declare righteous, i.e., cause one to be in a right relation. G765 – "irreverent person n. — a person lacking proper veneration and practice (toward those whom such is owed); usually toward God."

G4102 – "trust in the gospel n. trust in Jesus as contained in the content of the Gospel."

### accounted for righteousness,

G3049

G1343 – what is right.

#### Notes:

'does not work' is referring to religious works or good works. Paul is discouraging working for your salvation.

Instead, if someone believes, or puts their trust in God, their faith is credited as righteousness before God.

'Him who justifies the ungodly' -God makes right those who are not right. If there were religious or spiritual or good works you could do to be right with God, then you would be the one justifying yourself. Justification s a work that only God can do. No amount of good works, or religious rites, or spiritual exercises can make you right with God. That doesn't mean that those things are not important, but they only matter to God if they come from faith. Faith precedes works. Without faith none of those things are pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6).

Paul said something that some might see as contradictory to what I just said (2 Philippians 2:12-13). Paul is not saying work so that you can be saved. What he is saying is since you are saved exercise your salvation — do the spiritual works of salvation. An illustration would be exercising to build muscle. Exercise does not create muscle. A muscle must exist before it can be exercised and grown.

Another concept that some struggle with is that God justifies the ungodly. In our human sense of justice, we think God should justify the good people. The problem is there are no good people - all have sinned and fallen short. So God made a way to be the just One and the justifier of the ungodly sending Jesus to take the punish of the ungodly. All they need to do is by faith receive Christ's sacrifice for their sin and they are made righteous before God (Romans 5:6). Holy God the Father can justify the ungodly through faith because God the Son died for them.

Paul then describes the blessing of being right with God through faith apart from works.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit...

### <sup>6</sup> just as David also describes the



G3108 – joy, happiness.

#### Notes:

[Verses 6-8] – The problem with trusting in works to be right with God is that you can never be certain you have done enough, or the right works to be right with God.

A very clear picture of that is the sacrificial system of the Jews. They had to keep coming back to make sacrifices for their sin. Jesus' sacrifice was a once-for-all sacrifice (1 Peter 3:18).

# imputes righteousness apart from works:

G3049 – charge to acount.

G5565 - without, besides, apart from, independent from; a marker of dissociation. Scriptures: Psalm 51:16-17 - For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;

You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-

These, O God, You will not despise.

Scriptures:

1 John 1:9 - If we confess

our sins, He is faithful and

unrighteousness.

## "Blessed are those whose lawless d

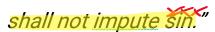
## , and whose sins are co

G863 - "to be forgiven (state) v. to be or become pardoned or exempt from legal or personal consequences for an offense."

G1943 - "to be  $forgiven \Leftrightarrow be \ covered$ (state) v. — to be or become forgiven, conceived of as one's sins being or becoming covered up."

### Blessed is the man to whom the Lo

just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all



G3049 - keep mental record, charge to account, keep records of debits and credits.

#### Notes:

If we sin, and who doesn't sin, there is nothing we can do to atone for our sin. There is no work we can do or sacrifice we can make to make it right in God's eyes. There is no penance or ritual or religious exercise, like confessing to a priest that will result in forgiveness of that sin. The only remedy is to acknowledge that you sinned and believe that Jesus died for that sin (1 John 1:9). Repent and believe and you are forgiven.

Paul quotes King David from Psalm

31:1-2 as David remarks about the

blessing of God's forgiveness over

his sin with Bathsheba. David broke

coveted Bathsheba, he committed

adultery with Bathsheba, and he

three of the Ten Commandments; he

murdered Uriah, Batheba's husband.

The Mosaic Law made no provision

for these premeditated sins. Two of

the three, adultery and murder, were punishable by death. God graciously forgave David for his sin.

He didn't have to do anything,

except acknowledge his guilt and

believe the words of the prophet

David realized his forgiveness was

the grace of God (Psalm 51:16-17).

who told him God forgave him.

Even though King David was a sinner, his willingness to repent and believe resulted in God referring to him as a man after God's own heart.

<sup>9</sup> Does this blessedness then come upon the

Circumcision was the outward and visible sign of God's covenant with Abraham. No uncircumcised man could claim any share in God's covenant.

circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised

also? For we say that faith was accounted to

Abraham for righteousness.

Scriptures:

10 How then was it accounted? While he was

For many Jews circumcision was a sign of their relationship with God it made them right with God. Paul is saying circumcision doesn't make a Jew right God because God declared Abraham as righteous about fourteen years before he was circumcised. Faith made Abrahm right with God, not religious works.

circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while

circumcised, but while uncircumcised.

Notes:

a seal of the righteousness of the faith which

G4973 − "indication ⇔ seal n. — a confirmation, proof, or authentication of a status; understood as if a literal seal (a resinous fastener for securing and authenticating

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,

## 12 and the father of circumcision to those who Abraha

Abraham was declared righteous while he was a Gentile, therefore he was the father of faith for both the Gentiles and the Jews. This also makes Gentiles, non-Jewish Christians spiritual relatives of the

not only are of the circumcision, but who also

walk in the steps of the faith which our father

Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

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