

## Teaching: Lesson 10 (April 6/7)

### *Abraham Justified by Faith*



Read Romans 4:1–12

Note: Reading Romans 3:21–31 will help in understanding Paul’s logic in this section, as he is building on this prior section when he starts speaking about Abraham.

1. Romans is a *letter* written to Christ-followers in Rome, not an organized theology textbook. Paul uses a series of tightly connected and long logical arguments to get to conclusions. Read this text and really focus on tracing Paul’s thoughts from one verse to the next. What did you find?

2. Paul repeats certain words multiple times in this short section. Which ones do you find, and how do they help us follow Paul’s thinking?

3. We have been reading narratives for the entire CASKET EMPTY series up until this point. What is different about reading an epistle (letter)?

4. Paul mentions Abraham by name seven times in Romans 4. What is so important about Abraham as Paul describes the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ?

5. Verse 3 states that “Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.” What are ways in which Abraham exercised this faith in his life?

6. Think back to our CASKET study. Why did the Lord count righteousness to the far from perfect man Abraham? Why is that good news for us?

7. How does Paul use economic terms in verses 4–5 to make his point?

8. Paul appeals to David to continue his argument in verses 6–8. How do David’s words from Psalm 32: 1-2 apply to being justified by faith?



9. What is the one thing both the circumcised and uncircumcised need to receive the blessing of covered, forgiven sins?

10. Why do we need to be reminded over and over that we are saved by faith in Christ and not by works? How might you struggle with this at times?

11. In what ways do you struggle to extend the grace you have received to others who are in need of grace?

12. Outside of faith in Christ, what are common ways humans seek to merit God’s favor?

13. Describe a time where have you witnessed the power of being justified by faith alone transform your life or the lives of others?

14. Paul without any doubt makes the case that works alone cannot and do not lead to salvation, yet good works are commended by Paul elsewhere as an important part of a Christian’s life (see for example Titus 2:7; 14; 3:1; 8). What do good works signify then?

15. In Romans 3:23–25, Paul makes it clear that all are sinners, yet all who believe are justified as a gift through the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. How should we respond to such a gift of grace?