

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: "Resting in God's Gift" (Romans 4)

SERIES: | A Study of Romans: God's Great Gift

### IN THE SCRIPTURE & SERMON:

1. If you were to ask people how one is made right with God, what do you believe answers would be? Why would those be the answers?
2. Why is earning such a big value in our culture? Can you give examples?
3. How do we build our lives around earning? How do people make possessions, image, job, money, and other things as foundations for their securities, worth, and aspirations?
4. Why does this type of thinking seem to be prevalent in suburban contexts? How does this thinking play into how people see salvation?
5. **Read Genesis 15:5-6 and Romans 4:1-8.** Why is Abraham important to Paul's Jewish listeners? [Jewish leaders taught that the father of Judaism was saved by his obedience to God]
  - a. How does Paul use what happened to Abraham in Gen. 15 as an illustration that God saves by faith alone and not by works of the law?
  - b. How does Paul understand the phrase "and it was counted to him as righteousness"?
  - c. Why do verses 5-8 give hope to the wicked? What makes this so scandalous an idea to the world?
  - d. What is the point of vv. 4-5 as it concerns works vs. grace?
6. **Read Romans 4:9-12.** [FYI, Leader: In this section, Paul's showing of Abraham is the father of faith of any who believe]
  - a. Who is being referred to as the "circumcised"? What point is Paul making in this passage?
  - b. How is Paul the father of all who believe in Christ?
7. **Read Romans 4:13-15.** How does one void God's promise? What does it mean to adhere to the law in the context of Rom. 4 [Hint: He's not saying obeying the law is bad?]
  - a. Based on v. 15, what happened when the people of Israel were given the law?
  - b. What is Paul's point for those who seek to use the law to justify themselves before God?
8. Read **Romans 4:16-17.** How does believing God's promise bring Abraham into a new reality? Why does this only come by faith? Read **Romans 4:18-22.** How did Abraham exhibit living by faith alone? List characteristics in this section.
9. Read **Romans 4:23-25.** Why does Paul say what was written in Genesis 15 about Abraham in the Old Covenant was written for followers of Jesus in the New Covenant today? How so?
  - a. What is the shared reality of this text and our lives as followers of Jesus? What does this tell us about faith and salvation?
  - b. Why is this statement so important: "*Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.*"?
10. If living by faith is a receiving and resting in Christ, why can it be so hard to continually rest in Christ?
  - a. Why is it receiving and resting instead of working and striving?
  - b. What does this tell us about fighting for grace in our lives and as a small group?