

Lesson 3, ROMANS 4

Paul has made an argument that all of us fall short of the glory of God. Our feeble efforts at “being sinless” fall woefully short. Yet Paul makes it clear that “Now, righteousness from God apart from the law, has been made known....This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.” (Romans 3:21-22). Paul now turns his focus back to the patriarch, Abraham.

We need to remember that the Jews at the time of Jesus thought they had an inside track to the Living God. For them, being in the blood line of Abraham, the rite of circumcision, and the Law of Moses meant they were part of the kingdom of God. They looked down on the Gentiles who were the idol worshipping pagans.

1. Key to understanding this chapter is reviewing the covenant God made with Abraham. Reading Genesis 12:2-3 and Genesis 15:4-21. This is the covenant God made with Abraham that is still in effect today. What did Abraham do to establish that covenant with God? Compare this to Romans 4:1-5. What does Matthew 17:20 say about faith?

2. King David is the other Jewish leader that the Jews looked to for their standing with God. Read Romans 4:6-8 with Psalm 32:1-7, what does it say about our sins and how we are made right with God?

3. Read Romans 4:9-12 along with Genesis 17:1-11. This establishment of the rite of circumcision came AFTER Abraham was declared righteous by God. What does Romans 2:29 say about circumcision?

4. The Law of Moses is addressed in Romans 4:13-15. Reading John 1:17, Matthew 5:17-18, Matthew 7:12 and Matthew 22:37-39, what do these verses say about the law?

5. Read the rest of Romans 4. How are we Gentiles who are not of the bloodline of Abraham claimed as Abraham's descendants?

APPLICATION: In your life how have you seen God revealed as “the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were”?

PRAYER: God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you established everlasting covenants that are still in effect today. We praise you that you are a covenant keeping God. Your word is true, your promises are secure. Instill in each of us the faith that believes in the impossible because you are the God who makes the impossible, possible. You are the God who loves us with an undying love and is able to guide our steps into a deeper faith in you. Thank you, Father, that it is not about how great our faith is but about the great God we believe in. We pray this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.