

**WOMEN WALKING WISELY
A STUDY OF ROMANS (PART 1)
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

**LESSON 4—ROMANS 4
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AND FAITH ALONE**

**WOMEN WALKING WISELY MEETING:
JANUARY 16, 2023**

This is the basic format for how this Bible study is designed. Following these steps will give us a close up look at the book of Romans. The Bible study steps can be organized as...

1. Read the assigned passage of Romans: Jotting initial thoughts at the end
2. Observe the section: Giving your own heading to the specific section(s) assigned to you
3. Evaluate the chapter: Identify the natural flow in the story as it moves along the chapter
4. Define the characters: Note the main actors in the story and give a description of each
5. Write out your questions: Look for anything you do not know and find the answer if you can
6. Answer the study questions: I will give you questions for each week that we will interact with
7. Interpret the text: Explain what the text said about and to the original audience and why
8. Apply the text: Look for the universal application that is true to the text and yet timeless

Romans Introduction

If you haven't already, take time to read through the book of Romans. When you are finished reading, jot down any initial thoughts, observations, and questions.

NOTE: You will often be asked in our study of the text to define words by looking at the Strong's Concordance to help understand the original meaning of a word in Greek (or Hebrew). You can simply do a Google search and type in Strong's #xxxx & press the enter button. This will take you to sites like biblehub.com or blueletterbible.org for a better understanding of what the specific word means.

Day 1: Review of Romans 1 – 3

Review Romans 1 – 3. Write a summary for each chapter. Review and write out the key verses of Romans 1:16 – 17. Keep these key verses close by and remind yourself of them often as you study through Romans 4 in the next few days. Think about how these verses connect to what Paul is teaching in chapter 4.

Day 2: Romans 4:1 – 3

Who is the illustration being used by Paul in chapter 4? Why would Paul choose to use Abraham in this chapter? At this point, what do you know about Abraham? How does the illustration of Abraham tie back to where Paul ended Romans 3:27 – 31?

Reading through these first 3 verses of chapter 4, what can we assume was the Jewish perception of Abraham? In verse 2, what is the assumption made about Abraham's justification? What would this "assumed" justification result in?

However according to verse 3, which restates Genesis 15:6, Abraham was justified because of what? In this verse, it is the first time in chapter 4 we see the word "counted"—(some translations use the word "credited" or "reckoned"). Look through the chapter and note how many times the word is used: _____

What does word "counted" mean? **Look up [Strong's # 3049].**

Who is doing the crediting here? Is this at all about what Abraham has done or who he is? Who does this action point to?

Who initiates justification?

Day 3: Romans 4:4 – 8

According to verse 4, what do we find out about the one who works? (Compare that with Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:8 – 9)

True salvation is for those who do what (v. 5)? Look back and take note of Romans 1:16. Continuing in verse 5, who does God justify? The faith of the one who believes is counted as what?

Paul has used multiple Old Testament references already in the book of Romans. Whose writing is Paul quoting in v.6 – 8? Why is this person important in Jewish history? In these verses Paul quotes from Psalm 32:1 – 2...what life event did this follow in David's life (see 2 Samuel 11 – 12)?

Reading up on this time of David's life, follow this sequential order:

- 2 Samuel 11 – 12
- Psalm 51...what is the tone of this Psalm?
- Psalm 32...what is the tone of this Psalm in comparison with Psalm 51? Take specific note of the verses 1 & 2 that Paul quotes from. What is being described by David here in this Old Testament writing?

Day 4: Romans 4:9 – 12

Just as in Romans 3 focused on the outward act of circumcision for one's righteousness, Paul anticipates the next question that might arise from a Jewish audience. What is the significance of circumcision in Judaism? What is/was the point?

In verse 9, who are the circumcised? Who are the uncircumcised? (Look back at Romans 3:30 and take note of what was learned in this verse.) Also read Galatians 5:1 – 6 and take note of what Paul was teaching or reminding the Galatians of.

For context, reread these verses in Genesis...when was faith counted to Abraham, before or after circumcision?

Genesis 15:6

Genesis 16:2 – 4

Genesis 17:1 – 8, 9 – 11, 22 – 27

Why did Abraham receive circumcision? And when did this come in his life?

In conclusion (therefore), Abraham is the father of whom (v. 11-12)? (See—Romans 4:16) Abraham's faith before circumcision gives hope for whom? What would be counted for all Gentile believers both then and now?

What truth does Paul repeat again in verse 12 (see also Romans 2:25 – 29)?

Day 5: Romans 4:13 – 15

When Abraham was declared right before God (Genesis 15:6), had he been circumcised? At this time in history, did he have the law to follow? So according to Jewish tradition and the things that were esteemed by the religious, Abraham's faith had nothing to do with his outward actions.

What promises were made by God to Abraham?

- Genesis 15:18 – 21
- Genesis 13:16; 15:5; 17:5; Romans 4:17
- Genesis 12:3
- Galatians 3:8; Genesis 22:8 (John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:19; Rev. 5:12)

The promises that were made to Abraham ultimately point to whom? (See—Galatians 3:16, 29)

If people could keep the whole law, what would that do to faith and God's promise?

Why can the law not save (v.15)? See also Galatians 3:24...if you can, read this verse in the NASB; Romans 7:7 – 11 and Romans 3:20.

Day 6: Romans 4:16 – 17

So, what does justification depend on? And what does it rest on? (See Romans 3:24) Don't you just love those phrases "depend on" and "rest on" ... it sounds as if our justification is so safe and secure apart from ourselves, doesn't it?!?! What blessed assurance!

Who is justification for?

The ESV reads verse 16 as follows: Fill in the blanks with these missing key words...

"That is why it _____ on _____, in order that the _____ may rest on _____ and be _____ to _____ his offspring..."

Define: guaranteed [Strong's #949]

In verse 16, Abraham's offspring are referred to as which two groups? Abraham is identified as whom?

Verse 17 begins with a reference back to Genesis 17:5. This verse also points out the object of Abraham's faith which was what or whom? Faith is only as strong as the object upon which it rests.

What are 2 truths that Abraham believed to be true about God (v.17)? Explain what these 2 truths could mean. Given what is said about Abraham's belief in God, what kind of God did Abraham have faith in?

Do you get excited about Abraham's faith, or do you get excited about the God in whom Abraham believed? Do you have faith in that same God? I pray that is your testimony.

Day 7: Romans 4:18 – 21

What obstacles did Abraham face that might have kept him from faith?

How did Abraham respond to these "human" impossibilities?

What was Abraham fully convinced of? **Define "fully convinced" [Strong's # 4135]**

What obstacles in life do you or have you faced? Have these things grown or weakened your faith? Do you seek to give God glory in all circumstances of life? Is He worthy? Think on that...is He worthy? I believe that He is. Can you say with Abraham that you are fully convinced that God is able to do all that He has promised? If you can agree with the words of Abraham, praise the Lord for His continual work in your life and the fact that He is not done with you yet. And if you have struggled with your faith, if you know your faith has been weak, pray and ask for forgiveness (if you haven't already), but also pray that your faith will grow strong and that your trust will grow deep in the graciousness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for His promises will never fail, and His Word is ever true. (Phil. 1:6; 1 Peter 4:12 – 19; 5:10 – 11; Heb. 12:1-2)

Day 8: Romans 4:22 – 25

At the heart of this entire chapter is verse 22. Write out verse 22...how does it connect with everything Paul has been teaching and how does it succinctly summarize this chapter?

"It is not that faith merits salvation, but that faith accepts salvation from God's gracious hand. Through the acceptance comes righteousness that only God can impart." (MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1 – 8*. P. 267.)

The purpose of this whole passage and illustration of the life of Abraham means what for us today and for Roman believers then (v.22 – 23)? Who is the focus of our faith? And what did He do for us? According to verse 25, what did Jesus do for those who believe?

What does it mean that He was "delivered up"? **Look up [Strong's #3860]**

"Abraham's faith sprang from the knowledge of his own ungodliness and resulted in his confession that God's righteousness alone, imputed to his wretched moral account, can render him acceptable."

(Jerry Wragg & Paul Shirley: *Free to Be Holy*, p. 75)

And the very same thing can be said about all of us who have turned to Christ in faith alone!

Note: If you have the book, Free to Be Holy, p. 74 – 75 reference Romans 4, but you can also look on p.238 for more portions of the book where Romans 4 is specifically referenced which may be a help.