

Romans 4:16-25

Righteousness Revealed in Justification – 3:21-5:21

Verses 16-17

For this reason - Only the grace/faith system makes the promise certain!

Life to the dead – This probably refers to Genesis 17:15-21 where God promises in spite of the deadness of Sarah's womb that He will bring forth an heir.

The Point – If God can create life in a barren womb, we can be absolutely certain that justification by faith guarantees the promise of God's imputed righteousness to sinners who are spiritually dead. We receive *eternal life!*

Verse 18

Who against hope in hope believed – Abraham's hope was beyond reasonable hope. It did not rest on his physical ability but on God's promise. Therefore his hope was secure.

Verses 19-22

Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated – Abraham believed something that defied human logic. God waited until it was humanly impossible to fulfill the promise in order to exclude any possible human merit!

Grew strong in faith – Literally, "was strengthened in faith".

Giving glory to God – Often God strengthens our faith by bringing us to the point that only He can be recognized as the provider. It is then that our praise is pure and true!

Being fully assured – The Greek term means 'to be certain'. There is not a hint of varying degrees of assurance. The idea is that Abraham is persuaded that what God promised is true. Faith is a conviction that something is certain, reliable, or true.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Therefore also it was reckoned (logizomai) to him as righteousness - Because Abraham was convinced or persuaded of God's promise, righteousness was credited to him.

Verses 23-25

Now not for his sake only...but for our sake also – Paul brings home the point of his argument. Abraham's Old Testament account of justification by faith alone is given to show that today everyone receives God's imputed righteousness the same way, *by faith alone!*

Delivered up because of our transgressions – His death was necessary because of our sin.

Raised because of our justification – Christ's resurrection secured our justification. Our standing is now in Christ our risen Savior!

Chapter 4 – Four irrefutable reasons why justification is by faith alone.

- 1 Justification is a gift; therefore it cannot be earned through works (1-8).
- 2 Abraham was justified before the covenant of Circumcision; therefore circumcision has no relationship to justification (9-12).
- 3 Abraham was justified before the Law; therefore justification is not based on keeping the Law (13-17).
- 4 Abraham was justified because of his faith in God, not because of his works (18-25).

1 Justification is a gift!

2 Justification is not by religious activity!

3 Justification is not by keeping rules!

4 Justification is by faith alone!