

Roamin' Thru Romans-Part 16

A detailed study/analysis of the Book—Sunday Morning Series

May we stand please...

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:17—25

Prayer:

Romans 4

The Gospel argument continues in this chapter mostly under the heading of "*justification*."

Justification is one of the important Gospel words which is often used as a synonym for salvation—the way we use the word here.

Strictly speaking *justification* in the matter of salvation means God has declared the sinner righteous (after the sinner has received Christ as Savior).

Romans 4 may be divided into three major parts as follows:

- A. The Examples of Justification (Romans 4:1-8)
- B. The Exclusions in Justification (Romans 4:9-16) "Not circumcision or the law" (Sign or System)
- C. The Elaboration of Justification (Romans 4:17-25) (Today)

So, let's talk about that today:

"The Elaboration of Justification"

Romans 4:17-25

Paul elaborates on this matter of justification/imputed righteousness/salvation by focusing on **Abraham's *justification*** through believing the promise about the miracle son.

I. **The Fulfillment for Abraham** (Romans 4:17, 18)

"As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations" (Romans 4:17).

To be a father of many nations, Abraham needed first to be a father of a child.

The promise of this child (Isaac) was the promise that Abraham believed that resulted in God imputing Divine righteousness to Abraham.

Our text emphasizes that the promise was indeed fulfilled.

- A. **The character of the fulfillment.** "*Many nations*" (Romans 4:17).

From one son to "*many nations*." This is the way God fulfills promises.

- B. **The cause of the fulfillment.** "He believed... that he might become the father of many nations" ([Romans 4:17, 18](#)).

The key to blessing is **faith**. "Without faith it is impossible to please him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

II. **The Faith of Abraham** ([Romans 4:18-22](#))

Here we get a look at the **faith** of Abraham that resulted in the birth of Isaac and Abraham becoming the "father of many nations" ([Romans 4:17](#)) as a result.

- A. **The doubt for faith.** "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations" ([Romans 4:18](#)).

There was plenty of doubt to attack Abraham's **faith**.

Sarah, Abraham's wife, was filled with **doubt** (who laughed at the promises of God—[Genesis 18:10-13](#)).

When God promises, **doubt** will always show up to mock the promises.

- B. **The deadness for faith.** "He considered not his own body now dead... neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb" ([Romans 4:19](#)).

Circumstances do not encourage one's **faith**.

- C. **The devotion of faith.** "He staggered not at the promise of God... was strong in faith, giving glory to God" ([Romans 4:20](#)).

Those who walk by **faith** will be devoted to God; they will honor God.

- D. **The degree of faith.** "Fully persuaded" ([Romans 4:21](#)).

Abraham had great **faith**.

Most of us seldom get to the "persuaded" part in our **faith** let alone to the "fully persuaded" part of Abraham's strong **faith**.

- E. **The dividend of faith.** "Therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness" ([Romans 4:22](#); cp. [Genesis 15:6](#)).

[Genesis 15:6](#) (KJV)

⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Faith can obtain the greatest of all blessings, namely, salvation.

III. **The Following of Abraham** ([Romans 4:23-25](#))

It is intended that we should follow Abraham regarding this matter of **imputed righteousness** which is what brings **salvation** to the sinner.

- A. **The foresaid for the following.** "It was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed unto him" ([Romans 4:23](#)).

Scripture has been written for our benefit. *"Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"* ([Romans 15:4](#)).

- B. ***The faith in the following.*** *"It shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead"* ([Romans 4:24](#)).

The imputation of righteousness comes by *faith* ("believe") in Jesus Christ.

This is how we are saved (have the righteousness of God imputed to us). Salvation is of *faith*, not works.

- C. ***The facts for the following.*** *"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification"* ([Romans 4:25](#)).

Two important facts are involved in our salvation which makes it possible for us to follow Abraham in obtaining the imputed righteousness of God.

First, the crucifixion of Christ. *"Who was delivered for our offences."*

The crucifixion was needed for our sins.

Second, the conquering by Christ. *"Was raised again for our justification."*

Had Christ not risen from the grave, His death on the cross would have done us no good whatsoever ([1 Corinthians 15:14, 17](#)).

1 Corinthians 15:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your *faith* is also vain.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ And if Christ be not raised, your *faith* is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

The resurrection was necessary for our salvation ("*justification*").

Closing: So, we will stop here for today!

Do you know this Jesus that the Book of Romans so clearly teaches us about?

If not, will you accept Him today?

Have you known the "blessing" of "justification?"

*Beach, B. 1/21/24 a.m. WHBC, Dalton

*This outline borrowed from: *Analytical Bible Expositor – Romans*. Other portions of this sermon were taken from various sources and commentaries.