

In View of God's Mercy - Week 5

Romans 4:14-25

Pastor Matt Dean

[The Gospel / Sinful humanity / God's wrath against unrighteousness / God's righteous judgment / Possessing the law and circumcision does not save / Not having the law is not an excuse / Every person has a problem / There is only one saving solution / the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus for all who believe]

The Promise Realized Through Faith

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Remember, it was Abraham's faith in God that was credited to his righteousness - Abraham believed God and it was his confidence in God that made him right with God. This righteousness was apart from the law, it was years before he was circumcised as a seal and reminder – this was so that Abraham would be the father of all who believe (with or without circumcision).

Why does this matter – the early church was wrestling with pride and disunity around what it meant to follow Jesus, and with unity in mind – Paul is helping Christians, from both Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds understand the implications of the Gospel.

¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

Again – we are reminded that “by works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight , since through the law, comes knowledge of sin.” (Rom 3:20)

To say with no law comes no transgression means that no “known” line has been crossed, doesn't mean all is well – breaking the law and breaking trust are two different things.

>> “The root of sin isn't in breaking the law, but in breaking trust with God; with denying His loving, caring purpose in every command He gives. Before Adam sinned, he broke trust with God - therefore God's plan of redemption is centered on a relationship of trusting love - faith, instead of law keeping. When we center on law-keeping instead of trusting love, we go against His whole plan”¹

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

¹ David Guzik - Romans Commentary

*Righteousness depends on faith – and the promise rests on grace.
 Depend on faith. Rest on grace.
 For Abraham – he had to believe, he chose to believe – GOD.
 This promise from God – believed by Abraham – rested on grace.
 God’s promise, realized by faith, resting on grace – is guaranteed to those who believe*

¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Abraham – the father of many nations. Believed God.
 He believed that God could bring life to the dead
 He believed that God could created something from nothing*

¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

*In hope - he believed against hope – that what God promised would prove true.
 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his 100 year old body.
 He did not weaken in faith when he considered Sarah’s barren womb.
 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God.
 Instead, he grew strong in his faith AS he GAVE glory TO GOD.
 Fully convinced.
 God was able. To do. What He. Promised.*

²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

*In hope – believing God.
 In faith – not looking at circumstances or his own ability. (100)
 In faith – not looking at other people’s circumstances or their abilities. (barren)
 In faith – not giving in to wavering unbelief.
 In faith - growing stronger in faith.
 In faith - giving glory to God.
 Fully convinced. God was able to do what He promised.*

²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

(Ro 4:13–25)

Abraham – his faith in the promise of what God would do – meant righteousness was counted to him. God’s promise to Abraham wasn’t just to Abraham or just for Abraham, but for something greater. Fully convinced. God - You Are Able.

God is faithful to his promise and Abraham does have Isaac - Jacob - Judah - Perez -Hezron - Ram - Amminadab - Nashon - Salmon - Boaz - Obed - Jesse - David - Solomon - Rehoboam - Abijah - Asaph - Jehosaphat - Joram - Uzziah - Jotham - Ahaz - Hezekiah - Manasseh - Amos - Josiah - Jechoniah - Shealtiel - Zerubbabel - Abiud - Eliakim - Azor - Zadok - Achim - Eliud - Eleazer - Matthan - Jacob - And Joseph, who was married to a virgin named Mary - who would give birth to Jesus.

God’s promise to Abraham was good – because God had a plan – and that plan would never fail - even though every name on that list would experience the reality of sin and falling short of the glory of God AND We see in history, through generations - that nothing can stop the purposes of God being fulfilled.

Our right standing with God – our being “counted righteous” - it comes by faith. Our faith – is in God and what He has done.

*What has God done?
A lot.*

God delivered up His son Jesus to death – an atoning death - a substitutionary death - a death by love - a death to end all death - a death to put an end to sin - a death to pay the debt of sin - a death to satisfy God’s wrath against sin.

God raised Jesus up from the dead – and did so to say, the sacrificial death was enough, the substitutionary death was enough, blood offering once and for all - sufficient, the sacrifice of Jesus - accepted.

*Death - defeated.
Sin - atoned for.
Debt - paid in full.*

²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

*Righteousness counted to us who believe in him who raised Jesus from the dead.
Righteousness counted to us who believe he was delivered up for our trespasses.*

*In view of God’s mercy – what does this mean? What do you need to remember today?
Discover today? Hear for the first time today?*

Abraham - In hope - he believed against hope – that what God promised would prove true. He did not weaken in faith when he considered his age or frailty.

He did not weaken in faith when he considered Sarah's capacity to have a child. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God. Instead, he grew strong in his faith AS he GAVE glory TO GOD. Fully convinced. God was able. To do. What He. Promised.

What does it mean to follow Jesus today – it means we walk as people who believe – specifically and authentically - in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Fully convinced of Jesus. Faith in Jesus in the face of fear. Faith in Jesus in the face of doubt. Don't let unbelief weaken your faith in Jesus. Instead, Grow strong in your faith and give God glory. In view of God's mercy – believe this:

Jesus - Delivered up for your trespasses.

Jesus - Delivered up for every line crossed.

Jesus - Delivered up for every law of God broken.

Jesus - Delivered up for every break of trust.

Jesus - Delivered up for every misdeed.

Jesus - Delivered up for sins of omission and commission.

Jesus - Delivered up for all that causes shame and pain.

Jesus - Delivered up for all the sin that has devastated humanity.

Righteousness counted to us who believe Jesus was raised for our justification.

Jesus - Raised that we would be justified.

Jesus - Raised that we would have peace with God.

Jesus - Raised that we would be with God forever.

Jesus - Raised that we would be welcomed by God.

Jesus - Raised that we would be made whole.

Jesus - Raised that we would be made new.

Jesus - Raised that we would be sons and daughters.

Jesus - Raised that we would love His rule and reign.

Jesus - Raised that we would love His name and His renown.

Jesus - Raised to life – so we would be alive in Jesus forever .

The “counting to us who believe” – is that we receive the work of Christ² and the person of Christ, that we receive what He has given us and that we know the riches of God's glory in Him. Here's what happens – fully convinced followers of Jesus grow strong in faith as they give glory to God. In view of God's mercy – believe Jesus.

² John Piper's book – *What Is Saving Faith? Is a helpful and clarifying resource on this truth.*

