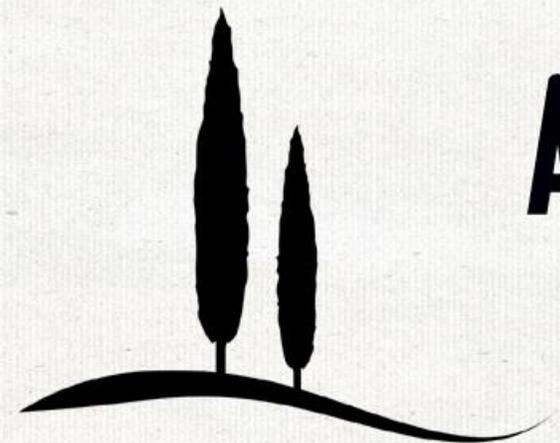




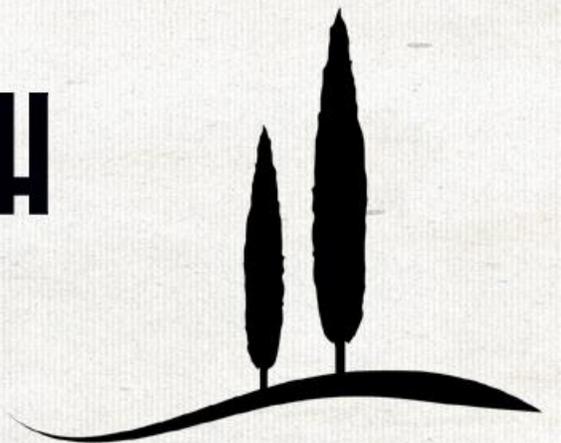
# ROMANS



**АВРААМ — EXAMPLE OF FAITH**



**4:1–25**





# **Paul's Roman audience:**

- **Gentile Christians**
- **Jewish Christians**
- **Jews not yet believing in Jesus**
- **Gentile God-fearers not yet believing in Jesus**

## **Romans 4:1–4**

**What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Now to the one who works, the wages are not credited as a favor, but as what is due.**

## **Romans 4:5–8**

**But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:**

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN,  
AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.**

**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE  
INTO ACCOUNT.”**

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## Genesis 15:4–6

Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but **one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.**” And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” **Then he believed in the LORD; and He credited it to him as righteousness.**

# **Faith is essential because,**

- The focus is on God the giver and on Jesus who is the full measure of the gift**
- Our contribution has no value**
- The value of belief is not in the magnitude or extent of the faith but in its object**
- God's blessings are without bias**

**Why then are the Jews  
circumcised? Didn't the  
covenant with Abraham  
mark a special provision  
of God's blessing?**

## **Romans 4:9–11a**

**Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.” How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised,**

## **Romans 4:11b–12**

**so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.**

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# **Faith precedes signs,**

- Our signs are all the trappings of “church” – valuable as indicators, not in themselves**
- The signs point to SOMEONE, not just something... faith the foundation (Heb 11:6)**
- Signs alone extinguish faith, blessing is replaced with a curse**

**What about the Law?  
Wasn't it intended to  
confer blessing upon God's  
chosen people?**

## **Romans 4:13–15**

**For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

**For if those who are of the Law are heirs, then faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.**

## **Romans 4:16–17a**

**For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (as it is written: “I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS”)**

## **Romans 4:17b–18**

**... in the presence of Him whom he believed, that is, God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that do not exist. In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.”**

## **Romans 4:19–21**

**Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.**

## **Romans 4:22–25**

**Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our wrongdoings, and was raised because of our justification.**

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# **Grace saves from Law,**

- **Law should never have obscured the grace God offered to Abraham**
- **Our hope rests not in ourselves, weak because of sin, but in the promise of God**
- **We have an even better hope because of the better covenant found in Christ (Hebrews 8:6)**