



## **“Believe God!”** **ROMANS Chapter 4**

**Intro:** In this chapter Paul will continue to establish the theme that we are *justified through FAITH!* Paul will reference *Abraham*, the father of the Jewish people, and their greatest king, *David*.

Within this chapter we find a key word mentioned eleven times, it is “**ACCOUNTED**,” in Greek *logizomai*, which is translated by the English verbs “*account*,” “*count*,” and “*impute*” (vv.3,4,6,8,9,10,11,22,23,24). Literally “*to put to one’s account*.”

- Let’s review from Romans 3:28-31 through chapter 4.

### **> Three Points & Four Promises:**

#### **- POINT #1 – THE BLESSINGS OF GOD! (v1-8)**

(v1-4) **ABRAHAM, the father of FAITH!** – Abraham was found righteous through faith and not by works, this brings the **BLESSINGS** of God! This account of righteousness through faith is before the rite of circumcision and 600 years before God gave the law to Moses.

- **History lesson: Abram believed - Genesis 15:1-6** – *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." **And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.***

**Sarai’s scheme in Genesis 16** (Hagar gives birth to Ishmael- This child was the result of Sarai’s and Abram’s lapse into unbelief, was the progenitor of the Arabs, the traditional enemies of the Jewish people.

Moreover Muhammed, the founder of Islam came from the lineage of Ishmael. Remember the god of Islam is the moon god, not the same God of the Jews and the Christians, which is YHWH.

- Observe God’s miraculous **PROVISION!** – **Genesis 17:1-18**; God is sooo funny! – **Genesis 21:1-8.**

(v5-8) **DAVID** reveals the blessedness of **FAITH** and **FORGIVENESS** in **Psalm 32**. David understood faith, grace, mercy, and the forgiveness God. He committed adultery, lied and murdered; yet God convicted him of his sins, David **REPENTED** and God **FORGAVE!**

**Psalm 32 – “The Joy of Forgiveness” - Written by King David**

**1** Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven,  
Whose sin *is* covered.

**2** Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,  
And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.

**3** When I kept silent, my bones grew old  
Through my groaning all the day long.

**4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

**5** I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I have not hidden.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

**6** For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You  
In a time when You may be found;  
Surely in a flood of great waters  
They shall not come near him.

**7** You *are* my hiding place;  
You shall preserve me from trouble;  
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

**8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will guide you with My eye.

**9** Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule,  
*Which* have no understanding,  
Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle,  
Else they will not come near you.

**10** Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked;  
But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.

**11** Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;  
And shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!

- **Warren Wiersbe writes regarding verses 6-8**, “Paul used David as a witness, quoting from one of David's psalms of confession after his terrible sin with Bathsheba ([Ps 32:1-2](#)).

**David made two amazing statements: (1) God forgives sins and imputes righteousness apart from works; (2) God does not impute our sins.**

In other words, once we are justified, our record contains Christ's perfect righteousness *and can never again contain our sins*. Christians do sin, and these sins need to be forgiven if we are to have fellowship with God ([1 John 1:5-7](#)); *but these sins are not held against us*. God does keep a record of our works, so that He might reward us when Jesus comes; but He is not keeping a record of our sins.”

- In **1 John 1:9-2:2**- If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from **all unrighteousness**. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, **JESUS CHRIST** the **RIGHTEOUS**. And He **HIMSELF** is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

## **- POINT #2 – THE SEAL OF GOD! (v9-12)**

(v9) Abraham **BELIEVED** God and it was accounted unto him for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, then fourteen years later he was circumcised. Thus he became the “father of **FAITH**” for the circumcised and the uncircumcised.

(v10) Abraham received circumcision as a sign of consecration to God, a **seal of RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

(v11) Today Christians have a different seal found in **Ephesians 1:13-14** - In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT of promise**, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

(v12) Faith in Christ has circumcised our flesh and wiped out the **judgment of the law!** - **Colossians 2:11-15**- In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through **FAITH** in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made **ALIVE** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having **DISARMED** principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, **TRIUMPHING** over them in it.

## **- POINT #3 – THE PROMISES OF GOD! (Four Promises) (v13-25)**

(v13-15) **Promise #1 - RIGHTEOUSNESS through faith!**

(v16) **Promise #2 - Saved by GRACE through faith!**

(v17-22) **Promise #3 - Abraham became a father of many NATIONS through faith**, as God gave **LIFE** to the dead!

**- Abraham’s and his son Isaac preview the hope of the resurrection through faith!**

– **Hebrews 11:8-19** - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude — innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. **By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.**

- **Warren Wiersbe writes**, “It was when Abraham admitted that he was “dead” that God’s **power** went to work in his body. It is when the lost sinner confesses that he is spiritually dead and unable to help himself that God can **SAVE** him.”

**(v23-25) Promise #4** - Jesus died (because of our **OFFENSES**) and **ROSE** again because of His **RIGHTEOUSNESS**; now by faith in Christ our sins are **FORGIVEN**, we receive His **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and we will go to **HEAVEN!**