

Romans

Chapter 4

Abraham. Father. If he was saved by works then he could boast. Gen 15:6. He believed and it was counted as righteousness. Precedes his circumcision and the Law. Makes the case to the Jews. Galatians Chapter 3. Prefigures the Gospel being preached to the Gentiles.

If you work, it's not grace, it's a debt; it's earned. Grace is getting what you do not deserve. Earning would involve God **having** to give you salvation.

The grace apart from works has been revealed in Chapter 3. Faith counts for righteousness. Putting your trust in Him. An act of trust. The ungodly are justified as a result.

Psalm 32:1-2. The greatest thing is to have forgiveness of sins and have them **covered**. We can't plead innocent. Our sin is covered- an act of grace. So we are "blessed." We are not dealt by the "justice system." Heb 8:12.

So, is this just for the circumcised or uncircumcised also? Abraham was not circumcised when his faith was counted as righteousness. **Then** he gets the covenant through circumcision so he can be the father of the circumcised and the uncircumcised. Righteousness for both through Grace. So Gentiles are heirs to the promises made to Abraham. Galatians 3:13.

The promises to Abraham were by faith and not by law. He did not earn them. Law brings condemnation and wrath because we cannot keep it. Galatians 3:10. If salvation is by Law then faith is not important. Believers are the heirs of Abraham.

So it is of faith, not by law, so it can be grace given to all; spiritual children of Abraham. Father of many nations. Prophecy fulfilled. Also combines the promises of many descendants and all the nations of the earth being blessed. Abraham's natural AND spiritual seed.

Abraham believed despite the **natural** situation. The situations of Abraham and Sarah. God makes promises and keeps them, Paul illustrates His Power. Abraham **believed**. The Greek means that Abraham did not doubt. No doubt that God would keep His promises. **So** it was counted as **righteousness**. Basis of salvation. It is all for God's Glory.

This is not written just for Abraham but for all of us. Abraham was representative. The method though which he was justified is the way we are *all* justified. The Greek means an ongoing process through the future – inexhaustible. The ultimate Sacrifice – we put our faith and trust in that. Abraham had the promise of righteousness and we know about the Christ as the substitutionary death.

The Resurrection is the ultimate sign.