

Romans 4 Outline

The Faith-Alone Example of Abraham

- 1A** The example of Abraham as applied to works and faith, vv.1-3:
 - 1B** Question concerning Abraham's find, 1: What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?
 - 2B** Conclusion, justification and boasting, 2: For if Abraham was justified from works, he has boasting, but not before God.
 - 3B** Reference to Scripture, 3: For what does Scripture say? "Now Abraham believed in God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."
- 2A** Comparison of the results of works and faith, respectively, vv.4-5:
 - 1B** The result of works, 4: But to the one who works, the wages are not counted according to grace, but according to debt.
 - 2B** The result of belief, 5: But to the one who does not work, but believes upon the one who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted unto righteousness.
- 3A** The David quote as support for justification apart from works, vv.6-10:
 - 1B** Framing of the quote, 6: Just as also David speaks the blessedness of man, to whom God accounts righteousness apart from works,
 - 2B** The quote (Psalm 32:1-2), 7-8: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not account sin."
 - 3B** Relating of the quote to the circumcision state of a man, vv.9-10:
 - 1C** Which men, 9: Therefore is this blessedness upon the circumcised, or also upon the uncircumcised? For we say, "The faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness."
 - 2C** Which state, 10: How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or while he was uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.
- 4A** Circumcision as a symbol of justification by faith, vv.11-12:
 - 1B** The true nature of circumcision, 11: And he received the symbol of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of faith which was while uncircumcised, for him to be the father of all who believe during uncircumcision, for righteousness to be accounted to them also;
 - 2B** The application of the symbol to all of faith, 12: and the father of circumcision for those who are not only of the circumcision, but also to those who line up in the track of faith which was during the uncircumcision of our father Abraham.
- 5A** Two invalid paths to salvation, vv.13-15:
 - 1B** The invalidity of a genetic model, 13: For the promise for him to be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham or to his seed, but through the righteousness of faith.
 - 2B** The invalidity of a lawkeeping model, 14: For if he was the heir through law, faith has become empty, and the promise has been abolished.

- 3B** The purpose of the law, 15: For the law produces wrath; For where there is no law, neither is there transgression.
- 6A** The only valid path, vv.16-18:
- 1B** Faith in accordance with grace, in the certainty of God's promise, and the purpose, 16
Therefore this is from faith, that it might be according to grace, for the promise to be certain to all the seed, not to those from the law alone, but also to those from the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.
- 2B** The Scripture and the God he believed, 17: Just as it has been written, "I have placed you as the father of many nations," across from him who believed God, who makes alive the dead, and calls those things not existing as existing,
- 3B** The character of his faith, 18: who beyond hope upon hope believed, for him to become father of many nations, according to the thing which was spoken, "Thus it shall be your seed."
- 7A** The absolute character of Abraham's faith, vv.19-21:
- 1B** No focus on his physical condition, and Sarah's, 19: And not being weak in the faith, he did not study his own body, already having died – since he was about a hundred – and the deadness of the womb of Sarah;
- 2B** Total focus on omnipotent God, vv.20-21:
- 1C** Faith in the promise, 20: And he did not waver at the promise of God in unbelief, but he was empowered by faith, giving glory to God,
- 2C** Faith in the God behind the promise, 21: and being fully satisfied that what He had promised, He was able to do.
- 8A** The reward of Abraham's faith, 22: Therefore also it was accounted to him for righteousness.
- 9A** The universal applicability of the principle, vv.23-25:
- 1B** Not to him only, 23: But it was not written for him only, that it was accounted to him;
- 2B** To all who believe, 24a: but also for us, to whom it will be accounted,
- 3B** The faith, 24b-25:
- 1C** Belief in the One who raised Jesus, 24b: to those who believe upon the one who raised Jesus our Lord from death,
- 2C** Two works of Jesus related to our salvation, 25: who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.