

ROMANS 4:1-12

The Example of Abraham's Faith

East Albertville church of Christ

Adult Class – 02.09.2020

I. Overview of Romans...

- A. Chapter 1: God's Power to Save; the Unrighteousness of the Gentiles.
- B. Chapter 2: Indictment of the Jews.
- C. Chapter 3: All Have Sinned, But by Faith in Christ All Can Be Righteous.
- D. Chapter 4: Example of Abraham's Faith.

II. Definitions.

- A. **impute** - "to reckon, take into account, or, metaphorically, to put down to a person's account". To ascribe a quality to someone by virtue of that quality found in someone else.
- B. **righteousness** - virtue; integrity; morality; innocence. As used in this chapter, the idea seems to be akin to that of "justification", where one is declared "not guilty".

III. JUSTIFICATION OF ABRAHAM USED AS AN EXAMPLE (1-8)

- A. HOW ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED - Rom. 4:1-4
 - 1. If Abraham was justified by the things that he did, there might be reason for him to boast of his accomplishments.
 - 2. It was Abrahams faith in God which justified him.
- B. THIS DOES NOT CONTRADICT JAMES 2:17.
 - 1. Paul and James are arguing basically the same point from two different directions. – James 2:22-23
 - 2. Faith leads us to follow the commands of the one in whom we believe.
 - 3. In Hebrews 11, each example of faith is followed by a verb ("action word").
 - 4. Romans 4:1-8 is meant to establish that faith is essential. It is not to promote "salvation by faith only".

C. PAUL USES THE TESTIMONY OF DAVID AS AN EXAMPLE – Rom. 4:6-8

1. He speaks of God imputing righteousness apart from works (6).
2. David describes this process in three different ways...
 - a) *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven”*
 - b) *Blessed are those “whose sins are covered”...*
 - c) *“Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”*
3. When David sinned, did he go out and try to keep more laws to get forgiveness? – Ps. 32; Heb. 11:6

IV. RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BELIEVERS (9-25)

A. BECAUSE ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED BEFORE CIRCUMCISION – Rom. 4:9-12

1. His faith was counted for righteousness before he was circumcised – Gal. 15:5-6
2. Circumcision was a seal of the righteousness he had while uncircumcised – Gen. 17:11
3. Abraham became the father of all who have the same kind of faith, both circumcised and uncircumcised. Gal. 3:28-29