

"The Doctrine of Justification"

Romans 3:21-5:11

Part 11

Introduction: In our study of Romans we are currently looking at the Doctrine of Justification and as Paul teaches us this doctrine he is pointing to Abraham as the example of how justification is by faith and not by works, or by the Law, or by any religious ceremony or rite, or by his own power.

John 1:12-13

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Here in verse 13 John uses three negatives and one positive to show how man is born again/justified.

Negatives;

1. **Not of blood** - This means that we cannot inherit our salvation from our parents or from any other relative. We inherit the sin nature from our earthly father, we do not inherit righteousness from our earthly father.

Romans 5:12

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

2. **Nor of the will of the flesh** - This simply means that in the flesh we can do nothing at all to earn the forgiveness of sin.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

3. **Nor of the will of man** - This means that as much as I desire to see people saved I cannot will them to be saved. In other words, I cannot save someone else. It is a personal choice that every person must make on their own.

Positive;

1. **Born of God** - It is God who causes a sinner to be born again and to be justified. It happens when a sinner exercises faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. At that very moment the sinner is born again by the power of God.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Getting back to Romans 4 again, Abraham was saved by grace through faith when he believed the promise of God. God had promised that through Abraham that the Messiah would come. When Abraham was first given the Promise, he was 75 years old and Sarah was barren. At the age of 86 he fathered a son through Hagar, but Ishmael was not the Promised son for the Promised son would come through Sarah. When Abraham was 99 God reaffirmed the Promise to him.

Genesis 17:1,2,6, 15-19

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

² And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

⁶ And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

¹⁵ And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

¹⁶ And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

¹⁸ And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

¹⁹ And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

It was at the age of 99 and Sarah being 89 that God fulfilled His promise.

Notice Romans 4:17-22

Abraham believed God! Abraham had nothing to contribute because his body and Sarah's body were both sexually dead. So, he believed in hope when humanly speaking there was no hope. He had to fully rely upon God and he did. Now I told you that Abraham's faith was not perfect for he failed many times. But he did grow in his faith and I want you to see just how strong his faith had become.

Genesis 22:1-3

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

² And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

³ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

The words "after these things" refers to the events of the previous chapter where Abraham had to send away Hagar and Ishmael from his family. So, when God calls him to sacrifice Isaac he does not have Ishmael to go back to. Not only that but all the promises are to be fulfilled through Isaac. But Abraham never questioned God, nor did he shrink from the command. He was willing to follow through with the sacrifice for he knew that if Isaac died God was able to raise him from the dead and would have to in order to keep his Word.

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

¹⁸ Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

¹⁹ Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

I. Abraham's Justification

Part 6

"The Application"

Notice Romans 4:22

When Abraham believed God, it was IMPUTED to him for righteousness. Let us notice the meaning of the word "IMPUTED" as defined by an unknown teacher:

"Imputed was a secular bookkeeping term which meant to make an entry in the account book or to put to one's account. It carried the economic and legal meaning of crediting something to another's account. It means to calculate or reckon, as when figuring an entry in a ledger. The purpose of the entry is to make a permanent record that can be consulted whenever needed. It means that when you deposit \$1000, the bank credits your account with \$1000. Therefore when you write a check for \$500, you don't worry about it because you are reckoning on the fact that money is actually in your account. The infinitely priceless treasure of Christ's perfect righteousness was credited to Abraham's spiritual bank account.

Abraham believed God, and his act of faith was placed to his account in value as righteousness. He believed God and his act of faith was credited to him for righteousness. He believed God and his act of faith was computed as to its value, and there was placed to his account, righteousness. However, Abraham's act of faith was not looked upon as a meritorious action deserving of reward. What his faith did do was provide a channel through which God worked His redeeming grace. Faith is a convicted heart reaching out to receive God's free and unmerited gift of salvation."

Notice Romans 4:23-24

This was all recorded in the Old Testament, but it was not only written for Abraham's sake alone but also for all sinners. What is Paul saying here? He is saying that everyone is saved by grace through faith just as Abraham was. Abraham is the example of what saving faith looks like.

Looking at Abraham we can see what TRUE saving faith looks like. It starts with the proper view of one's self. It is seeing ourselves as having nothing to offer. It is seeing ourselves as helpless. It is having the humble attitude of unworthiness knowing that we have nothing to offer. It is seeing ourselves with no hope apart from God. Then comes the faith. It is a faith that rests in Jesus Christ even though we have no hope in ourselves and

we have been deep into sin this faith has hope when there is no hope (humanly speaking). It is a faith that casts all the eggs into one basket and that basket is God's basket and it is believing that He has made a way through the sacrifice of His Son. It is faith in God as the One who has made a way of salvation. It is a humble faith knowing that we do not deserve forgiveness. It is also a persevering faith for a true saving faith will last. It will not be proclaimed in a difficult situation and then be abandoned when things are resolved. It will not be forsaken when the trials of this life come. A true saving faith will endure, and it will grow into a living faith just as it did in Abraham.

Notice Romans 4:25

Here is the message which True saving faith rests in. We need to look closely at what is said in this verse because this is the message of the Gospel.

1. **Jesus was delivered for our offences.**

When we read of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ many wonder who was to blame. When we read the account of the crucifixion we can find three groups of people to blame. Let me show you some verses.

Matthew 27:1

*When the morning was come, all the **chief priests and elders** of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:*

²⁰ *But the **chief priests and elders persuaded** the **multitude** that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.*

²¹ *The governor answered and said unto **them**, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? **They** said, Barabbas.*

²² *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? **They all say** unto him, Let him be crucified.*

²⁷ *Then **the soldiers** of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.*

³¹ *And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.*

³⁵ *And **they crucified him**, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.*

Here we see that the religious leaders sought to have Jesus killed, they convinced the multitudes to demand His death and so the multitudes cried out for His death, then there are the soldiers who led Him to Calvary and they drove the nails through His hands and feet. So, who was to blame for the death of Jesus Christ? In a sense we all are but it was God the Father who delivered Him over to die for our offences.

Isaiah 53:6,10

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

¹⁰ *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

Acts 2:22-23

²² *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

²³ *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

From these verses we can see that Jesus was delivered over by God the Father to become sin for us upon the cross. God's righteousness demanded that there had to be a sinless Substitute who would die to pay the sin debt of each and every one of us. Jesus Christ the Son of God was the only One who qualified so God delivered over His only begotten Son to pay for our offences.

2. He was raised again for our justification.

Notice Romans 4:25 again.

This verse can be translated in two ways. "*He was raised again FOR our justification*" or "*He was raised again BECAUSE of our justification*". Either way I believe it has the very same meaning. The idea is the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the proof that God the Father accepted the death of Jesus Christ as the full and the final payment for our sins.

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.*

⁴⁶ *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

John 19:28-30

²⁸ *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.*

²⁹ *Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.*

³⁰ *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

The suffering of Jesus Christ upon the cross was equivalent to what we would have experienced in hell for all eternity. Someone may ask how could the time on the cross equal our eternity in hell? The answer is that God does not measure time like we do.

2 Peter 3:8

⁸ *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

The death of Jesus Christ FULLY paid the sin debt of the entire world and that is evidenced by His resurrection and He was resurrected because the debt was paid.

Isaiah 53:10-11

¹⁰ *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

¹¹ *He shall see of the travail of his soul, and **shall be satisfied**: by his knowledge shall **my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.***

Conclusion:

As we end this chapter in Romans I will leave you with a few verses from Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:12-14

¹² *But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ ***For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.***