

Romans Chapter 4 Study Notes • The Confidence of Abraham

Note: Romans chapter 4 is a continuation of the Apostle Paul's argument that being right with God is not the result of our performance or good works as established by the Law. Instead, our righteousness is imputed to us as a result of our FAITH. The Apostle uses this chapter to bolster his argument, citing the example of Abraham — the father of the Jews.

- The Jews considered Abraham as a righteous man before God. In quoting Genesis 15 what is Paul bringing out concerning Abraham's righteous standing? (See **verse 3**)
 - What, therefore, is the conclusion Paul wants his audience to reach?
- Is it reasonable to conclude that "righteousness by faith" was a reality before the Law was given?
- Note: It may be helpful to read **Genesis 15:1-6** since the Apostle Paul makes reference to this passage several times in this chapter.
- We're told in the Genesis passage that Abraham "**believed the Lord.**" It was brought out in the teaching that the word **believed** here carries the idea of leaning on something with your whole weight. How does that word picture help you understand the idea of faith?
- Read **Proverbs 3:5-6**. What words in that passage speak of a LACK of faith? How is a lack of faith described?
- In last week's study the Apostle quoted David from the Psalms saying "**No one is righteous...**" and yet here we learn that Abraham was **credited** righteousness through his faith. How do we reconcile those two statements?
- Read **Isaiah 64:6**. How does God view our best acts of righteousness?
- In **verses 4 and 5** the Apostle reiterates his point. How, according to these verses, do we receive a righteous standing before God?
- In **verse 5** It says that God justifies the "ungodly." How can He do that and still be just?
- As we've learned, the Jews knew that Abraham was a man declared righteous before God. Their conclusion was that circumcision was the sign of that righteous standing. But in **verses 9-11** Paul brings out WHEN Abraham was declared righteous before God. What is BEFORE he received the sign of circumcision, or after? And why is that an important thing to know?
- **Verse 15** is important. It reminds us that rather than blessing our lives, the Law actually condemns those who fail to keep its demands. Since no one can do that, we are all under a curse. How does understanding this truth keep us from a life of legalism?
- Why is it appropriate to say that all who put their faith in Christ are "children of Abraham?"
- Paul tells us in **verses 21-22** that Abraham was "fully convinced" and did not waver in unbelief. What was the object of Abraham's faith?
- **Read verses 23-25**. How does this personalize for you the narrative about Abraham?
- What was the most important thing you learned from this study?