

Abraham's Righteousness – Part I

Romans 4:1-12

Introduction

I How Was Abraham Made Righteous?

- A. Abraham's discovery
 - 1. The opinion of the Jews: By **works**
 - a. If so, he had something to boast about - Rom 3:27-28
 - 2. The truth of the scriptures: By **faith**
 - a. Abraham **believed** God - Gal 3:6-9; Jn 6:28-29
 - b. Abraham was **credited** with righteousness - Jam 2:23
- B. The two possible grounds for righteousness
 - 1. If righteousness is by **works**:
 - a. Then it is not a gift but an **obligation** - Rom 11:35

Works → Obligation → Wages
 - 2. If righteousness is by **faith**:
 - a. Then it is credited as a **gift** - Eph 2:8-9; Rom 4:23-25

Faith → No obligation → Gift

II How Was David Made Righteous?

- A. He was credited righteousness apart from works - Ps 32:1-2
 - 1. Blessed are they whose transgressions are **forgiven**
 - 2. Blessed are they whose sins are **covered**
 - 3. Blessed is he whose sin will never **count** against him

III Who Is Qualified To Be Made Righteous?

- A. Only the circumcised? Or also the uncircumcised? - Gal 5:6
- B. The answer lies in examining Abraham's life:
 - 1. How was he made righteous? By **faith!** - Rom 1:16-17
 - 2. Under what circumstances was he made righteous?
 - a. It was not after circumcision, but **before** - Gen 15-17
 - 3. What, then, was the purpose of circumcision?
 - a. It is an outward **sign** of an inward work
 - b. It is a **seal** of righteousness by faith - SS 8:6
- C. Abraham is the father of all who **believe**:
 - 1. He is the father of the uncircumcised - Gal 3:6-8

- a. That righteousness might be **credited** to them
 - Rom 3:22
- 2. He is the father of the circumcised:
 - Rom 3:29-30; 10:12-13
- a. Who also walk in Abraham's footsteps of **faith**

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What kinds of religious rites, ceremonies or symbols do people put their spiritual hope in today? Have you ever relied on these to feel righteous before God? According to the Bible, what should you rely on?
2. When, and how, was Abraham credited with righteousness? By whom? On what basis? [See Gen 15:17] How are people credited with righteousness today? [Rom 1:16-17; Gal 3:6-9]
3. What prevented Abraham from boasting before God? Why is boasting inappropriate for a believer? [Hint: Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:27-28] What qualities mark a person who recognizes that salvation is a gift received by faith? Are these qualities evident in your life? Why or why not?
4. What was the significance of circumcision in Abraham's life? Based on your answer, how would you describe the significance of water baptism and communion? Are they necessary for salvation? If not, what are they for?
5. Take a moment to thank God for His indescribable gift of a right standing based on a response of simple faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Ask Him for opportunities this week to share this liberating message of God's love and acceptance!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

Copyright, Bob Hallman, 1996-2021, All Rights Reserved.