

# Abraham's Righteousness – Part II

## Romans 4:13-25

### Introduction

#### I How Did Abraham Receive the Promise?

- A. The means of righteousness
  - 1. It was not through the law
  - 2. It was through faith in the promise
    - a. That he would be heir of the world
- B. The effects of the law
  - 1. For those who live by law:
    - a. Faith has no value
    - b. The promise is worthless
    - c. It brings wrath
  - 2. For those without law:
    - a. There is no transgression

#### II How Do We Receive the Promise?

- A. The promise comes by faith
  - 1. So that it may be by grace
  - 2. So that it may be guaranteed
    - a. To all of Abraham's offspring:
      - 1. To those who are of the law
      - 2. To those who are of the faith
- B. The promise: Abraham would be the father of many nations
  - 1. He believed in God:
    - a. Who gives life to the dead
    - b. Who calls things that are not as though they were

#### III How Did Abraham Exercise Faith?

- A. The evidence of his faith
  - 1. He believed God's promise against all hope
  - 2. He did not weaken in his faith:
    - a. Despite his age and deadness
    - b. Despite Sarah's age and deadness
  - 3. He did not waver through unbelief
    - a. Regarding the promise of God

- 4. He was strengthened in his faith
- 5. He gave glory to God:
  - a. Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised.
- B. The outcome of his faith:
  - 1. He was credited with righteousness

#### IV How Are We to Exercise Faith?

- A. The promise is also for us:
  - 1. Who will be credited with righteousness
  - 2. Who believe in God:
    - a. Who delivered Jesus over to death for our sins
    - b. Who raised Jesus to life for our justification

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you took God at His word in spite of apparently hopeless circumstances. What happened?
- 2. If keeping the Law cannot give someone a right standing before God, what is the Law's purposes? [Hint: 1 Tim 1:9-11; Rom 3:20; Gal 3:19; Gal 2:15-16; Gal 3:17-18]
- 3. What obstacles did Abraham face regarding the promises of God? Why do you think God waited so long to fulfill his promise to Abraham?
- 4. What five things did Abraham do in response to the human impossibility of God's promise? Have you ever faced circumstances that seemed humanly insurmountable in light of God's promise? How did you respond?
- 5. Compare what Abraham (V. 17b) and you (v. 24) have to believe about God in order to be credited with righteousness. Do you find this difficult? Why or why not?

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