

ROMANS 16 – 4:9-17

The Faith of Father Abraham

1. 4:9-10

- a. The blessedness of imputed righteousness without works (faith only) – Rom 4:5-6
- b. “*circumcision only?*” – Remember, they had advantage (Rom 3:1-2), but not here.
- c. “*uncircumcision also?*” – Paul taught gospel of the uncircumcision also: Gal 2:7-9
- d. “*for we say...*” – both in Israel and in Paul’s reasoning in Rom 4:1-3
- e. “*How was it reckoned?*” – Paul argues the chronology of Abraham’s life? Gen 15:6
- f. There was no circumcision, law, Israel, or “Abraham” when it was reckoned

2. 4:11-12

- a. It was already reckoned when Abraham was circumcised as a sign/seal
- b. A sign makes a show, and a seal confirms – neither one could make righteous
- c. “*father*” – the chief, first, one who institutes the pattern – 1 Cor 4:15, 1 Tim 1:16
- d. “*father of all them...*” – in the sense of imputed righteousness by faith
- e. This is not making us Israel, or usurping their covenants, but the opposite
- f. “*father of circumcision*” – a different fatherhood regarding his covenant people
- g. Gentiles were without hope, but could show obedience of faith – Eph 2:11-13
- h. “*who also walk...*” Pharisees didn’t do it - John 8:39, but Cornelius did Acts 10:2
- i. Faith has always been the issue – Luk 7:9 (Mat 8:11-12), Mat 9:22, 15:28

3. 4:13-15

- a. The promise given to Abraham to be heir of the world – Gen 12:3, 17:4-5, 22:17-18
- b. This is not the promise of righteousness by faith, but Israel’s dominion on earth
- c. Abraham never lived under the law, yet he was given the promise
- d. If dominion is through the law, the promise goes away, as does Israel –Psa 105:8
- e. The law does not disannul the promise – God will keep it by faith - Gal 3:16-24
- f. “*law works wrath*” – and condemns all who fail to do it - Gal 3:10-14, 2 Cor 3:7,9
- g. No law = no transgression speaking about those under Promise (Abraham, etc)
- h. (This also is used in defense of those who do not have the knowledge of sin)

4. 4:16-17

- a. If it were of the works of the law it would not be grace – Rom 11:6
- b. “*to the end... sure*” – they could be sure God will keep his promise
- c. “*to all the seed...*” – Israel and the Gentiles, circumcision and uncircumcision
- d. “*faith of Abraham*” – that is, faith without law, circumcision, works
- e. “*father of many nations*” – which speaks to people who by faith are not Israel
- f. Paul’s message emphasizes grace and faith, there is no more Jew nor Gentile
- g. God’s righteousness by grace through men of faith: in Promise, Law, and Church
- h. God always saves by grace through faith (at times faith requires performance)