

(20) "Not for His Sake Alone": Faith and Justification (4:23-25)

# Romans: The Outwork of the Righteousness of God

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# Justification!—Line of Thought

- The Way of Works Is Blocked (1:18–3:20).
- There Is Another Way (and the Only Way): Justification by Grace through Faith (3:21-26).
- The New Way Requires Exclusivity (3:27-31).
  - Exclusivity: Faith Alone, Not Faith Plus Works.
  - Universality: All Are Saved in the Same Way.
  - Connectivity: The Law Is the Pointer to the Faith.
- The New Way Was Illustrated by the Life of Abraham (and David) (Ch 4).
  - Abraham Was Justified by Faith, Not Works (4:1-8).
  - Abraham Was Justified as a Gentile, Not a Jew (4:9-12).
  - Abraham as Justified by the Promise, Not the Law (4:13-17a).
  - Abraham Was Justified by Hope, Not Circumstance (4:17b-22).
  - Abraham's Path Is Ours, too, Not Just for Himself (4:23-25).
- The New Life Was Necessitated by the Law (Ch 5).

# Changing of Perspective

- <sup>22</sup> Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Gen 5:16)
- <sup>23</sup> Now not for his sake only was it written
  - that it was credited to him,
- <sup>24</sup> but for our sake also,
  - to whom it will be credited,
  - as those who believe in Him
    - who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
      - <sup>25</sup> He who was delivered over because of our transgressions,
      - and was raised because of our justification. (Rom 4:22-25 NAU)

# The Quotation as Jumping Board

- (Gen 15:6) “Then he believed in the LORD; and He **reckoned** it to him as righteousness.”
- (Rom 4:3) Justified by Faith, Not Works:
  - “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”
- (Rom 4:9) Justified by Faith, Not Circumcision:
  - “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”
- (Rom 4:22) Justification Is Accreditation:
  - IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

# Changing of Persepective

- At First, the Emphasis Was on Faith/Belief, in Contrast to
  - Works/Law, or
  - Circumcision/Sacraments.
- Then the Emphasis Became the Reckoning/ Accreditation
  - Of the Righteousness of Christ,
  - By God the Father.

# Not for His Sake Only

- “<sup>23</sup> Now not for his sake only was it written that ‘it was credited to him’ (Gen 5:16)” (Rom 4:23)
- It Was for Abraham’s Sake First:
  - He Was Justified by God (Having the Right Standing before Him, Accepted as a Friend).
  - Because He Believed in God: In the Character of God, the Truthfulness of His Word/Promise, His Honor.
  - Before He Acted Out His Faith in Obedience (Circumcision, Sending Out Other Sons, etc.).
    - These Are Expected Result of Justification due to Gratefulness.
    - Not the Way to Earn It, Which Produces Pride and Indifference, Not Gratitude and Obedience.

# Not for His Sake Only

- It Is Also for the Sake of Believers of Jesus Christ.
- The Life of Abraham Set up a General Pattern for Believers (the “Way of the Beatitudes” according to Jesus in Matt 5-7).
- Believers Are Justified by God the Father,
- Because of Knowing Jesus the Son of God;
- By Trusting in the Printed Word of God,
- Before Acting Out the Faith in Obedience,
- And Being Transformed with God’s Character.

# Exemplary Life of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes	Life of Abraham
Poor in Spirit:	Being Pagan , Old, without Heir.
Kingdom of Heaven Is Theirs.	Leaving Ur & Haran, Enter Canaan.
Mourn (for Sin):	Mourn for Cowardice/Lying/Losing Wife.
Being Comforted.	Recognize Being Chosen by Grace.
Meek:	Letting Lot Choose the Land.
Inherit the Earth.	God Promised Owning What He Sees. God Let Him Defeat 4 Kings.
Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness	Giving Tithe; Believing in God's Promise; Circumcise; Receiving God in Person.
Be Filled.	Being Promises Isaac.



# Exemplary Life of Beatitudes

Beatitudes	Life of Abraham
Merciful:	Plead for Family of Lot in Sodom.
Being Shown Mercy.	Wife Protected from Abimelech.
Pure in Heart:	Sending Out Ishmael.
Shall See God.	They Saw the Angel of the LORD Leading Them to the Living Water.
Peacemaker:	Peace Covenant with Abimelech.
Called the Sons of God.	Called the People of God.
Persecuted for the Sake of Righteousness:	Binding of Isaac; Purchasing the Land for Burying Sarah.
Kingdom of Heaven Is Theirs.	Finding Rebekah (Birth of the Twin); Sending Out the Other Sons through Keturah.

# Knowing the Father thru the Son

- “<sup>24</sup> but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him (God the Father) who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead” (Rom 4:24)
- Believers of Jesus Are Accredited the Same Status as Abraham before God: Righteous.
- By Believing in God (the Father):
  - The Truthfulness of His Word (the Bible).
  - The Honor of His Character (Holiness, Justice and Love; Truthfulness, Faithfulness, and Goodness).

# Knowing the Father thru the Son

- The Father Killed His Only Begotten Son.
  - It Was the Agreed Plan of the Trinity before the Foundation of the World.
  - It Was thru the Hands of the Jews and the Romans, for the Redemption of Our Sins.
  - They All Share the Responsibility, but the Ultimate One is God's!
- He Killed His Son in Order to Make Us His Sons/Heirs!
  - How Great the Grace!
- He (the Father) Raised Him (the Son) from the Dead, So That We May Have the Hope of Eternal Life!
  - How Great Is the Power!

# Before the Foundation of the World

- Jesus Is the Eternal Lamb of God.
  - “<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29)
  - “<sup>20</sup> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you” (1 Pet 1:20)

# Before the Foundation of the World

- Believers Are Chosen before the Foundation of the World.
  - <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. (Eph 1:4)
  - <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him (the Antichrist), *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain." (Rev 13:8)

# Knowing the Father thru the Son

- Believers Will Inherit the Eternally Designated Estate of God.
  - “<sup>24</sup> ‘Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.’” (John 17:24)
  - “<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” (Matt 25:34)

# Knowing the Father thru the Son

- Jesus Is the Way to the Father
  - <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.'
  - <sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.'
  - <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, "Show us the Father "?" (John 14:6-9)

# The Life of the Redeemer

- *“<sup>25</sup> He (Christ) who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.”* (Rom 4:22-25)
- He Was Delivered by God to Die for Our Sins.
  - He Delivered Himself Willingly by the Love for Us.
  - *“No man takes my life from me, I laid it down of myself”*—Jesus (John 10:18)
- He Was Raised by the Father from the Dead.
  - *“He Rose from the Dead”* (Acts 10:41; 1 Cor 15:12).



# The Life of the Redeemer

- He Died for Our Transgression.
  - His Righteousness Will Be Accredited to the Believers of Him, Who Honored His "Credit".
  - He Did It Out of **Love**.
- He Was Raised because of Our Justification.
  - His Victory over Sin and Death Is Our Victory, for We Are "In Him", thus Hidden from God's Wrath and Crowned with His Righteousness.
  - He Did It Out of **Faith**.

# Lessons and Applications

- Read the Life of Abraham Carefully, and Imitate Him.
- Abraham was Our Example, Not Jesus, Who Is the Deliverer of Abraham and Us.
- Get to Know God as the Final Goal; Knowing Jesus Is the Way.
- Imitate These from Christ: Love and Faith
  - One (Love) Is Life.
  - One (Faith) Is the Way to Life.