

**Series "How Great A Salvation"  
"Faith Illustrated"  
Romans 4:1-16  
Study-11**

**Romans 4:1-8, 15-16**

**Isaiah 41:8 – "Abraham My friend,"**

**Romans 4:1-26 – Entire Chapter about Abraham** – The greatest Patriarch, the Father of Salvation – The Father of Circumcision – and the Law.

**David** – Israel's greatest King, to which Paul also cites! **Matthew 1:1**

**Romans 3:21-11 – By Faith**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "God Has Provided Salvation Through Faith In Jesus Christ, Apart From Works, Rituals And Rules."

**1. Verses 1-8 – Abraham's Righteousness Apart From Works**

**2. Verses 9-12 – Abraham's Righteousness Apart From Ritual**

**3. Verses 13-16 – Abraham's Righteousness Apart From Law**

**1. Verses 1-8 – Abraham's Righteousness Apart From Works:**

Romans 4:1 – "What then (Therefore) shall we say" – Paul, in Romans 3:21-31 – Faith alone secures right standing before God, Romans 3:30.

Justification – "to declare and treat as righteous" through faith.

"according to the flesh, has found?" – "What has Abraham found in the way of his activity or works; what did it get?" Did it gain him acceptance with God?

Romans 4:2 – "he has something to boast about;" – That would mean that Abraham had accomplished the impossible.

Genesis 26:4-5 – Jews cited this passage, but it was after he believed!

"but not before God." – Applause of men, but never from God!

Romans 4:3 – Note "Scripture" Singular, like "Bible." Paul saw Scripture as unified. "what does the Scripture say?" – Paul understood "when the Bible speaks, God speaks." Literally, "through the written text, what does the living voice of God say?" Paul turns to the Scriptures to hear what God has to say!

The Believer's Convictions Are Based On Scripture: "For what does the Scripture say?" – "When the Bible speaks God speaks."

"ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD," – taken from Genesis 15:6; "Believed" – "to commit, put in trust with," John 8:56.

"AND IT WAS CREDITED" – used 11X, Verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, & 24. An accounting term, "to put down to one's account, let revenues be placed on deposit at the storehouse"

Righteousness and Justification – 9X, Verses 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 22 & 25; "to declare and treat as righteous, in right standing with God"

Who did Abraham believe in? He believed in the Lord; "GOD."

Genesis 15:1-6

Galatians 3:16

Romans 4:4

"Under a system of works, everything depends on the sinner. Under grace, everything depends on the Savior!"

Romans 4:5 – Credited Through A Gift! – "But to the one who does not work,"

"but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly," – "wicked."

Romans 5:6

"his faith is credited as righteousness," – "to put down to one's account, let revenues be placed on deposit at the storehouse."

Verses 6-8 – David's Joyful Relief Of Assurance Of Forgiveness:

Romans 4:6 – "just as David" – Sweet Psalmist; the man after God's own heart.

"also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:" – David's Testimony, "Salvation is freely given by God!" David's sin was exposed, 2 Samuel 11-12; 2 Samuel 12:13.

Romans 4:7-8 – Paul quotes David in Psalm 32:1-2.

David had broken 3 of God's Commandments. 1) Coveted Bathsheba, 2) Committed adultery, 3) Committed murder.

Psalm 51:16-17

Forgiveness was not the result of good works, but confession of sin. We are sinners; we are in great need of God's mercy and grace! David records the effects of sin in Psalm 32, 39, 51.

"THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." – Isaiah 43:25.

## **2. Verses 9-12 – Abraham's Righteousness Apart From Ritual:**

Romans 4:9

"For we say, 'FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.'" – Abraham's Faith was in God alone, not through his works or rituals.

Romans 4:10 – "Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;" – Jewish timeline was wrong!

Romans 4:11 – "and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised," – Abraham believed, was declared righteous, Genesis 15:4-6. Abraham was circumcised in Genesis 17:7-14; Abraham was circumcised 14 years later. Order was – Faith, Justification, then Circumcision.

"he received the sign" – What is a sign? Signs Impart Information.

Signs are used to advertise.

Signs give directions and commands.

Signs can be Prophetic or Predictive. The miracles of Jesus were signs of his Messiahship; the Son of God, John 20:30-31.

Signs Can Convey Authority, Mark 2:1-12.

"that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised," – Abraham actually became the Father of the Gentiles.

Romans 4:12 – "those who not only are of the circumcision," – Romans 2:28-29.

### **3. Verses 13-16 – Abraham’s Righteousness Apart From Law:**

Romans 4:13 – “For the promise to Abraham” – the promise involved the land – Genesis 15:18-21; promise involved the people – Genesis 13:16.

“to his descendants that he would be heir of the world” – Genesis 12:3.

Abraham’s Righteousness Was Not A Result Of The Law: “was not through the Law,” – Abraham was justified 430 years before the law was given.

“but through the righteousness of faith.” – Abraham’s righteousness was not the result of the Law but through faith.

Romans 4:14 – “Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;” – Law and grace are mutually exclusive.

Reminder: The Law was given to those who were in a covenant relationship!

Romans 4:15 – “for the Law brings about wrath,” – The Law’s purpose is to state a standard.

“no law, there also is no violation.” – Without a standard, there is no wrong. Violation – transgression – “crossing a known boundary.”

Romans 4:16 – Faith Brings Us Into God’s Favor: “For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace,”

Faith Brings Us Into God’s Family: “so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants,”

#### **Application:**

1. Under A System Of Works, Everything Depends On The Sinner. Under Grace, Everything Depends On The Savior.
2. The Order Of Abraham’s Credited Righteousness Is The Order Of All Who Would Receive. He Placed His Faith In God, He Was Declared Righteous, And Then He Was Circumcised.
3. Abraham’s Righteousness Was Not A Result Of The Law Because The Law Wasn’t Given Until 430 Years Later. The Law Exposes Our Sin So That By Grace Through Faith We Might Receive God’s Righteousness.