

LESSON 9: ROMANS 4:13-25

Abraham's Example (cont'd)

1. What was God's promise to Abraham and his offspring (v. 13)? What does that mean? (See Genesis 12:1-3; 17:4-5; 22:17-18; Psalm 2:8; 72:11.)
2. What point is Paul making in his whole discussion setting our works and wages against God's promise and grace (vv. 13-16)? What is the righteousness of faith? Is there another sort of righteousness?
3. Why does Paul assert, in verse 14, that faith is null and the promise is void "if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs"?
4. What point is Paul making in verse 15? How does the law bring wrath? And what does it mean to say that "where there is no law there is no transgression"? Does this mean that non-Jews (i.e., those without the law) were not accountable for their sin? (See Romans 5:13-14.)
5. The word "believe" is crucial word to this chapter. What did Abraham believe about God? How was this reflected in his life (vv. 17-23)? Have you ever been faced with circumstances in which what you could see seemed to call for one direction, while faith in God's word called for another?
6. What must you believe in order to be justified? How is it to be reflected in your life? So what's wrong with a little sprinkling of works righteousness in addition to my faith...? But how can you be sure...?
7. What's so important about Paul's point in verses 23-25? Why do people find it easier to accept the idea of "works righteousness" rather than "faith righteousness"?

Righteousness of God is the wrath being revealed always, and to come.

World at large: given over.

Jews: not righteous because they know the law, but only if they do the law.

No special privilege here: the one who does the law is righteous, Jew or no Jew.

But as it happens: there is none righteous, no, not one.

Thus, no one is saved by law, but condemned by it.

What advantage then has the Jew?

To them the oracles (the Law, his Word)

Law doesn't save: the greatness of the law is that it reveals our sin.

It reveals our need of Christ!

Otherwise, no difference:

All have sinned; world under judgment.

Central, crucial bad news of gospel: universal condemnation.

But now the righteousness from God is being revealed!

Justification as a gift by grace through redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

He is both just and the justifier of the one whose faith is in Jesus!

This is the law of faith (as opposed to the law of works), and it allows for no boasting.

In view here is a radical vision: a world under judgment, and the pardon only through faith in Christ.

Radical Christ reliance is called for; total complete trust for one's status before God.

How then was this shown in the OT? Now we see! And we'll also see how the Jews and Gentiles are connected in and through him....