

The Book of Romans

I. Paul's Introduction to his **Letter** (1:1-17)

II. Paul *Declares* Man's Need for God's Salvation
and Righteousness (1:18-3:20)

III. Paul *Delivers* his **Gospel Message** of
Righteousness by Faith in Messiah (3:21-5:21)

A. He *Declares* that **Righteousness** is *through* Faith in
Jesus the Messiah (3:21-31)

1. A *Righteousness* that is **apart** from the Law (3:21-23)
2. A *Righteousness* that results in our Justification (3:24-31)

B. He *Defends* his **Message** of Righteousness
by Faith (4:1-25)

1. **Abraham's Testimony** of **Righteousness** by Faith (4:1-5)

⁴ What then shall we say that **Abraham**,
our **forefather** according to the **flesh**, has found?

² For if **Abraham** was justified by works, he has something
to **boast** about, but *not before God*.

³ For what does the **Scripture** say?

"**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"

⁴ Now to the one who **works**,
his **wage** is not credited as a **favor**, but as what is due.

⁵ But to the one who **does not work**,
but believes in Him who justifies the **ungodly**,
his faith is credited as righteousness,

2. **David's Blessing** of a **Righteousness** "Reckoned" *apart*
from **Works** (4:6-8)

⁶ just as **David** also speaks of the **blessing** on the man
to whom **God credits** righteousness *apart* from works:

⁷ “**BLESSED** ARE THOSE WHOSE **LAWLESS DEEDS** HAVE BEEN **FORGIVEN**,
AND WHOSE **SINS** HAVE BEEN **COVERED**.”

⁸ “**BLESSED** IS THE MAN WHOSE **SIN** THE **LORD** WILL **NOT** TAKE INTO **ACCOUNT**.”

3. Abraham’s *Testimony* of Righteousness by **Faith**, *apart* from the **Law** (4:9-17)

a. *Receiving* the **blessing** of righteousness *apart* from **circumcision** (4:9-12)

⁹ Is this **blessing** then on the **circumcised** , or on the **uncircumcised** also?

For we say, “ **FAITH** WAS **CREDITED** TO **ABRAHAM** AS **RIGHTEOUSNESS** .”

¹⁰ *How* then was it **credited** ? While he was **circumcised** ,
or **uncircumcised** ? **Not** while **circumcised** , but while **uncircumcised** ;
¹¹ and he received the **sign** of **circumcision** , a **seal** of the **righteousness**
of the **faith** which he had while **uncircumcised** ,

so that he might be the **father** of **all** who **believe without** being **circumcised** ,
that **righteousness** might be **credited** to them,

¹² and the **father** of **circumcision** to those
who not only are of the **circumcision** ,
but who also **follow** in the **steps** of the **faith** of our **father Abraham**
which he had while **uncircumcised** .

b. *Receiving* the **covenantal promise** through the righteousness of **faith** (4:13-17)

¹³ For the **promise to Abraham** or to **his descendants**
that he would be **heir** of the **world** was **not** through the **Law** ,
but through the **righteousness of faith** .

¹⁴ For if **those** who are of the **Law** are **heirs** ,
 faith is **made void** and the **promise** is **nullified** ;

¹⁵ for the **Law** brings about **wrath** ,
but where there is **no law** , there also is **no violation** .

¹⁶ For **this reason** *it is* by **faith** ,
in order that *it may be* in accordance with **grace** ,

so that the **promise** will be **guaranteed** to **all** the **descendants** ,
 not only to those who are of the **Law** , but also
to those who are of the **faith of Abraham** , who is the **father of us all** ,

¹⁷ (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”)

in the **presence of Him** whom **he believed** , *even God*,
who gives **life** to the **dead** and calls into **being** that which does **not exist** .

4. Abraham's *Testimony* of **Exemplary Faith** (4:18-25)

¹⁸In **hope against hope** he **believed**, so that he might become a **father of many nations** according to that which had been **spoken**,
"SO SHALL YOUR **DESCENDANTS** BE."

¹⁹Without becoming **weak in faith** he contemplated his **own body**,
now as **good as dead** since he was about a **hundred years old**,
and the **deadness of Sarah's womb**;

²⁰yet, with **respect to the promise of God**,
he did **not waver in unbelief** but **grew strong in faith**,
giving **glory to God**,

²¹and being **fully assured** that what **God had promised**,
He was able also to **perform**.

²²Therefore IT WAS ALSO **CREDITED** TO HIM AS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

²³Now **not for his sake** only was it **written** that it was **credited** to him,
²⁴but for **our sake** also, to whom it **will be credited**,
as **those who believe** in **Him** who **raised Jesus our Lord** from the **dead**,

²⁵**He** who was **delivered over** because of **our transgressions**,
and was **raised** because of **our justification**.

Personal Application **Abraham's Testimony of Faith** { Observations }

→ **Abraham** was **justified** (declared **righteous**) by **faith**, *not* by **works**.
He **believed God**, and "it was **credited** to him as **righteousness**."
(4:3, 5, 9, 22).

→ **Abraham's faith** was "**credited**" to him as **righteousness**, even
before receiving the **sign of circumcision**—*apart* from the **Law**
(4:9-10) (Gen. 15:6).

→ **Abraham believed**, and received by **faith**, **God's future promise**
to **him** that **he**, and his **descendants** would be "**heir** of the **world**."
(4:13)

By **faith** he (**Abraham**) lived as an **alien** in the **land of promise**,
as in a **foreign land**, dwelling in **tents** with **Isaac** and **Jacob**,
fellow heirs of the same **promise**; for he was **looking** for the **city**
which has **foundations**, whose **architect** and **builder** is **God**. (Hebrews 11:9-10)

→ **Abraham believed** in the **omnipotent power of God** (4:17)

(as it is **written**, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”)
in the presence of **Him** whom **he** (Abraham) **believed**, **even God**,
who **gives life to the dead** and **calls into being** that which ***does not exist***. (4:17)

→ **Abraham believed** even when **things** seemed **hopeless**

In **hope *against* hope** he **believed**,
so that **he** might become a **father** of ***many* nations**
according to that which had been **spoken**, (4:18)

→ **Abraham** did **not “waver”** in **unbelief**, or become **weak in faith**
when **all hope** of an **heir** became **increasingly impossible**.

Instead **he grew *strong*** in **faith**, and was “**fully assured**” in the
promise that **God** had given him many **years earlier**.

Without becoming **weak in faith** **he (Abraham)** contemplated his **own body**,
now as **good as *dead*** since **he** was about a **hundred years old**,
and the ***deadness*** of **Sarah’s womb**;

yet, with respect to the **promise of God**,
he did **not waver** in **unbelief** but **grew strong in faith**,
giving **glory to God**,

²¹ and being **fully assured** that what **God had promised**,
He was able also to **perform**. (4:19-21)

→ **Abraham’s faith** was **credited** to **him** as **righteousness** (4:9).
Paul revealed tonight that just as **Abraham’s faith** was
“**credited**” to **him** as **righteousness**, **our faith** also will be
“**credited**;” **we** “who **believe in Him** who **raised Jesus our**
Lord from the dead.” (4:23-24)

He (Jesus) who was **delivered over** because of **our transgressions**,
and was **raised** because of our **justification**. (4:25)

Closing Comments