

By FAITH and By GRACE? ~ Romans 4:16-25

→ Scripture Reading Gen. 12:2-3, 15:5-6, Rom. 4:16-17

INTRODUCTION

CONTRASTS in Romans 4 BKC

- FAITH -with- WORKS 4:1-8
- GRACE -with- RITUALS and the LAW 4:9-17
- LIFE -with- DEATH 4:18-25

⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them. ⁹ Is this blessedness **only** for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised...

The FATHER of ALL? ~ Romans 4:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes BY FAITH, so that it may be BY GRACE and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring - not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us ALL. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed - the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

By definition the Creator brings INTO existence ALL that IS from that which NEVER was. Anything less than that would be adaptation rather than creation. NAC

IMPLICATION

→ God's PROMISE is Based in His GOODNESS

¹⁶ This is why the PROMISE is by FAITH, so that it may be according to GRACE... (HCS)

God's promises flow from His NATURE as one who desires the very best for those He created. God's promises reflect the GOODNESS of His character. NAC

Psalm 34:4-8 (NIV) ...⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is GOOD; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from ALL my FEARS.

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. ⁶ This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he SAVED him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Against ALL HOPE ~ Romans 4:18-22

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old - and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

Genesis 17:17 (NIV) Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

The idea struck Abraham as somewhat ridiculous, but he BELIEVED it anyway. Instead of wavering in his confidence in God, Abraham's faith was strengthened through the ordeal. NAC

Hebrews 11:11 (NIV) By faith Abraham, even though he was past age - and Sarah herself was barren - was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

Abraham's life was marked by mistakes, sins, and failures as well as by wisdom and goodness, but he CONSISTENTLY trusted God. His faith was strengthened by the obstacles he faced, and his life was an example of faith in action. LAB

IMPLICATION

→ God IS our HOPE

¹⁸ Against ALL hope, Abraham **IN HOPE** Believed...

God Communicated with Abraham... (but NOT that Often)

Gen. 12 **Abraham** was **75**

Gen. 13 God **Spoke** after Lot separated from Abraham

Gen. 15 God **Promised** Abraham a son

Gen. 16 **Abraham** was **86**

Gen. 17 **Abraham** was **99**

Gen. 21 **Abraham** was **100**

When Satan tempts me to despair, And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied To look on Him and pardon me.

Delivered over to DEATH ~ Romans 4:23-25

²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

We are credited as righteous before God in the same manner as Abraham: BY FAITH. HCSB

²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

The fact that He ROSE tells us that the work is FINISHED, the **price has been paid**, and God is infinitely SATISFIED with the sin-atoning work of the Savior. MacDonald

TAKE AWAY ??

→ Delivered to DEATH - Raised to LIFE

²⁵ He was handed over to DIE because of OUR SINS, and He was raised to LIFE to make us right with God. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made Him who had NO sin to BE sin for us, so that IN Him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV) He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NET) So then, if anyone is IN Christ, he IS a NEW creation; what is old has passed away - what is NEW has come.