

What We Leave Behind

Romans 4

July 10, 2022

Abraham had plenty to boast about to the Jews, but not to God.

- In the eyes of the Jews, Abraham was the most righteous person of his time.
- He was called to be the father of many nations including the nation of Israel.
- Abraham was in the lineage of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Abraham trusted God's gift of salvation. It was not something that is owed, but freely given. That alone is what put him in right standing with God.

- In verse 3 Paul asks "What does the scripture say?"

"Abraham believed. "

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

Righteousness is credited to him who "trusts".

Paul reminds us through David that God credits righteousness apart from works.

"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Romans 4:7-8

- David killed the giant Goliath as a young boy to save Israel from the Philistines.
- He was Israel's second king.
- David wrote a good portion of the Book of Psalms.
- He was the Father to Solomon (Israel's third king).

It is not the act of circumcision that makes a person righteous.

- In Genesis 17 God required Abraham and every male in his household to be circumcised. From then on every boy is to be circumcised on the eighth day of life. This will be an outward sign of the covenant between God and Abraham.

- Abraham was declared righteous at age 86, but not circumcised until age 99.

It is not the Law that makes a person righteous.

- Abraham lived 400 years before the Law was given.

- The Law and circumcision was the foundation of the Jewish faith. They even added additional laws to the ones God had given them in the Old Testament. It was all about outward appearance and nothing to do with an inward relationship with God.

Faith and grace are for us all, both Jew and Gentile.

- Abraham is the father to all who believe.

“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.” **Romans 4:17**

Abraham did not waver in believing God’s promises.

“Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.” **Romans 4:20-21**

Righteousness is for us all who believe.

Prayer Focus:

- Do the things I do make me a good person?
- Are you allowing what is happening on the inside to impact the outside?
- Will I leave behind a legacy of faith?