

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 3-21-10 PM NOTES
"GETTING RIGHTEOUSNESS RIGHT"
ROMANS 4:9-17
#22 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Romans"

I. Abraham Was Not Declared Righteous by Religious Ceremony (V9-12)

Genesis 15:6 (ESV) "And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."

Genesis 17:10 (NKJV) "This *is* My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised".

John 6:27 (NKJV) "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because **God the Father has set His seal on Him.**"

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV) "¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

"What answers well as a sign, is a miserable substitute for the thing signified."

- Charles Hodge

"The gift of being made acceptable before God, of receiving the righteousness from God, was given to Abraham, not only to save him, but to make him a father of many more yet to come. God promised Abraham that he would become the father of many spiritual descendants, more numerous than the stars in the heavens, and that promise is still in the process of being fulfilled. When we receive the righteousness from God by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, then we become spiritual descendants of Abraham. This is true, Paul says whether we are circumcised or uncircumcised, whether we are Jewish or Gentile."

- Ray Steadman

II. Abraham Was Not Declared Righteous by the Law (V13-15)

Galatians 3:17 (NKJV) "And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect."

Law, Promise, Grace, Transgression, Wrath, Faith

Galatians 3:18 (NASB) "For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise."

III. Abraham Was Declared Righteous by Faith (V16-17)

Romans 4:13a (ESV) “For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world...”

Genesis 22:17 (NKJV) “blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.”

“God’s law makes demands which we transgress, and so we incur wrath (V15); God’s grace makes promises which we believe, and so we receive blessing (V14, 16).”

- John Stott

“...the way of faith alone guarantees that it should be entirely of grace, and that therefore the glory should be altogether God’s and His alone. The glory in salvation is entirely God’s glory; and if you introduce anything but faith you are detracting from His glory... The principle of faith leads to grace; and grace is one of the manifestations of the glory of God. That, says Paul, is the way of salvation; that is how the promise came to Abraham. There is nothing for man to boast of, not even his faith... It has to be either of works or of grace; and if you claim merit even for your faith you are turning your faith into works, and you are taking from the glory of God... It is altogether from God; and it is of faith that it might be by grace, in order that God might have all the glory.”

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Hosea 2:23b (NASB) “And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, '*You are my God!*' ”