

## COMMENTARY

### ROMANS

#### Chapter 4:

vs. 1-3 Abraham (Genesis 12-25:11) is considered the Father of the Israelite nation. This was God's promise to him, if Abraham would faithfully follow God's leading and commands. Among Abrahams acts of faith were: leaving his homeland to go to the place that God would show him, Fathering a son at age 100, and willing to give his son to God. Because of these actions, Abraham is called the father of the faithful.

Paul presents his case concerning what made Abraham free from sin in the sight of God. Paul shows that Abraham was justified (made to appear sinless before God) because of his faith and not by working for it and earning it.

vs. 4-12 Paul shows that Abrahams righteousness (which came by faith) is indeed, a gift from God and NOT something he had earned. Paul quotes David (Psalm 32:1,2) and shows that this gift is to be highly valued.

Paul now moves on to arguing that this justification (being made sinless in God's sight) is available to ANYONE who will believe and not just those who obey the Jewish rite of circumcision, which had been given to Abraham. He proves his point by showing that Abraham was justified BEFORE circumcision and not after!

vs. 13-25 Paul makes a case for the idea that the promises that were given by God to Abraham and Israel were given through faith and not through the Law. This is vital to us as Christians, for if they had come by the Law, then we would have to become Jewish and follow their rituals to have a share in God's promises. BUT, because the promises came by faith they are available to all who believe, just like Abraham, who has become for us an example (as Paul would say, Father of the faithful). Just as Abraham believed in the ability of God, and hence was able to father a child at age 100; so Christians who desire to share in the promises of God, need to believe in His ability to raise the dead.

Hence, Paul has shown the importance of faith and how we are dependent on God for His blessings and not dependent on our ability to follow the Jewish laws and practices.

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 5:

vs. 1-11:

Paul shows here at the start, that our justification (being made to appear sinless in God's sight), leads to a peace with God. This showing of God's grace is something that we should rejoice in. Paul goes on to say, that we should also rejoice in the hard times of life because, they teach us to remain faithful and to trust in God, no matter what. This perseverance develops character and as we see how he has provided, we realize that our hope is not in vain. God's Spirit, which He has given to us and now dwells in all Christians, is a reminder of God's love.

Paul continues to remind us of God's love. He shows how great God's love was, because He was willing to send His Son to die for us, while we were still living in sin. That was our only hope and God was willing to pay the price. If God was willing to send His Son to die for us, how much more willing He will be to save us from Hell, if we will now turn from sin and live for Him. We are now able to rejoice in all that God is and all that He has done, because of Jesus' making amends for us with God.

vs. 12-21 Paul now compares, sin entering the world through one man, with the idea that righteousness entering the world through one man. The entering of sin was done by Adam, and this is the reason that death was allowed to enter. Death now strikes all of mankind, for all are guilty of sin. On the other hand, Christ lived a righteous life and because of Him, justification is now made available to all.

ADAM

CHRIST

SINNED

WAS PERFECT

CAUSED DEATH TO ENTER

CAUSED LIFE TO ENTER

AFFECTED ALL

AFFECTS ALL WHO BELIEVE

Paul reminds us that the law was given to make us aware of our sinfulness. He now goes on to show, that wherever sin increased, God's grace also increased so that man might be justified! Because of the abundance of God's grace, eternal life is now given to those who are willing to be justified by faith in Christ!

## COMMENTARY

### ROMANS 6:

vs. 1-14:

Paul quickly states that we do not accomplish anything worthwhile, by sinning. Sin is of no value. Those who were immersed (the baptism of the Bible is immersion: any other form is a later change made by man) have baptized into Christ's death so that we might also be like Him, by being raised to life again. Our death is to sin (pictured by the burial under water [our breathing has stopped and our eyes are closed]) and we are raised to now live for God (pictured by our being raised out of the water and resuming of our breathing). Just as Christ has overcome death and lives forever, so the promise of eternal life is now offered to all who will accept Him in faith and live for God.

vs. 15-23:

Paul shows that mankind has become slaves to sin. Man allows sin to completely control and guide his life. The result of this slavery is death (both physically and spiritually). For those who are willing to die to sin, by accepting Christ through faith and being immersed, they are no longer slaves to SIN, but rather have offered themselves as slaves to RIGHTEOUSNESS. There are only the two options. Sin will lead to death, whereas being a slave to righteousness will lead to holiness and the receiving of God's gift of eternal life.

### THE CHOICES

SLAVERY TO SIN=DEATH

OR

SLAVERY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS=LIFE

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 4:

1. What did Abraham do, that was credited to him as righteousness?
2. How are a mans wages credited to him, when he works?
3. How is one credited with righteousness?
4. Who is “Blessed”, according to verses 7 and 8?
5. When was Abraham’s faith credited with righteousness?
6. Who is Abraham the father of, according to verses 11 and 12?
7. What was it not through, that Abraham received the promise that he would be heir of the world?
8. What does the law bring?
9. Why dos the promise come by faith, according to verse 16?
10. To whom, does God give life?
11. What was Abraham fully persuaded of?
12. Why was Jesus raised to life?

### BONUS:

1. What does being “justified”, mean to you?
2. Why is it important **WHEN** Abraham was justified?
3. Does being justified by faith mean, “One simply has faith, and then it doesn’t matter how they live and what they do?” Explain.

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 5:

1. Why should we rejoice in our sufferings?
2. How has God poured out His love into our hearts?
3. When did Christ die for the ungodly?
4. How did God demonstrate His own love for us?
5. Through Jesus, what have we now received?
6. How did death come to all men?
7. What did the “gift” follow and then bring? (see vs. 16)
8. What does God have an abundant provision of? (see vs. 17)
9. What was the result of one act of righteousness?
10. How are many made righteous?
11. Why was the law added?
12. What is the purpose for grace to reign through righteousness?

### BONUS:

1. How have you seen verse 3 to be true?
2. How do you respond to God showing His love to man, while man was still sinning?
3. Explain the significance of sin through Adam and life through Christ.

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 6:

1. What had Paul and the early Christians, died to?
2. Why were we baptized into death?
3. What will we certainly be united with Christ, in?
4. Why was our old self crucified with Christ? (see vs. 6)
5. What do we believe, if we have died with Christ?
6. For whom, does Christ now live? (see vs. 10)
7. What should not reign, in our mortal bodies?
8. What should we offer the parts of our bodies as?
9. What does sin and what does obedience lead to ?
10. What have those who have been set free from sin, now become slaves to?
11. What does slavery to righteousness, lead to?
12. What is the gift of God?

### BONUS:

1. Compare immersion, to the teaching of death to sin and living for Christ (as seen at baptism)
2. What does the phrase: "Slaves of righteousness", mean to you?
3. How do you feel about the "gift of God"?