

Pt 14 Romans 4:13-25, Standing on the Promises

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

Romans 4:13-25

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Last Sunday we looked at the first 12 verses of Chapter 4 and saw:

1. Paul proved to the Jews that Abraham was justified by faith alone without works.
2. Paul proved that justification has nothing to do with the Law.
3. Paul proved that justification has nothing to do with circumcision.
4. Paul proved that justification has nothing to do with nationality.
5. Paul proved that the same faith of Abraham that justified him, can justify ALL who have this same faith.

Here starting in verse 13, Paul continues driving the fact home that the Law has nothing to do with justification or the promises of God. He goes into those promises in which Abraham placed his faith in.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Again, Paul has to spend time proving that the Jews Law had nothing to do with God imputing righteousness into Abraham. Abraham and his sons lived before the Law was ever instituted.

No, not the Law but "through the righteousness of faith." This goes back to what Paul opened up his letter to the Romans saying: **Romans 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

This righteousness of faith is referring to the righteousness of God that is revealed through the faith of those who believe in Him. That has always been the way God's righteousness has been revealed to man, through the faith of those that believe. That is why we, as Christians, are called to be **salt and light**.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Ephesians 5:8-10 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

As long as we are the Salt and Light in this world then it glorifies God the Father and shows His goodness, righteousness, and truth. So, just as Paul wrote, "the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. The promises God made to Abraham were not of the Law but through righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

Paul explains if it were possible to become an heir (made righteous) just because you are a Jew and are of the "law," then that would void any reason for faith. What good would any promises of God be if a man could become an heir based on work he did? Just as Paul said, it would make having faith void.

You better believe if a man could work his way to heaven he would brag and brag.

And, just as Paul said up in verse 2: **Romans 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

You better believe Abraham could glory before man if he was justified by works that he did – but he wasn't.

God didn't make His promise to Abraham based upon whether or not he kept some law, did some works, or based upon his heritage – and, by the way, Abraham wasn't even a Jew. He was the beginning of what was later known as the Jewish race, but Abraham was a Hebrew. Hebrews were later known as Jews but that wasn't for quite some time after Abraham was dead and gone.

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

Here Paul is pointing out that the law brings forth the possibility of wrath because the Law is God's standard and man will rebel and transgress against God's standard therefore bringing forth wrath. The Law does not deal in mercy and forgiveness, it only deals in right or wrong. If a man does something and there is no law stating it is wrong, then there is no transgression, man has done nothing wrong because he broke no law. In other words – No Law? No Crime? If that is God's way of imputing righteousness, then his system is broken and useless.

16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

This is how God operates – grace through faith. His promises are to those who have faith in Him and His Promises – not to those who are of the law or who do works – that would limit who God would count as righteous. God has no limits because He offers His promises to ALL who have the same faith that Abraham had. That means that ALL men can be saved regardless of race, heritage. So it isn't just to the Jew but for the Gentile alike.

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Paul recounts what was “**written**.” Remember last time he took them back to “**the Scriptures**.” That is always how you should deal with questions concerning the things of God – see what is written. Because there are those today who do not believe what is written.

You may or may not have heard about this on the news but so-called “progressive church” in Nashville named GracePointe, who’s pastor actually said the following:

Gracepointe Church Facebook Post from February 7, 2021:

As Progressive Christians, we're open to the tensions and inconsistencies in the Bible. We know that it can't live up to impossible, modern standards. We strive to more clearly articulate what Scripture is and isn't.

The Bible isn't:

✗ *the Word of God*

✗ *self-interpreting*

✗ *a science book*

✗ *an answer/rule book*

✗ *inerrant or infallible*

The Bible is:

✓ *a product of community*

✓ *a library of texts*

✓ *multi-vocal*

✓ *a human response to God*

✓ *living and dynamic*

Of course, they received thousands of comments, most of them shaming them for posting such heresy, including my own personal comment that reads:

Jude 1:17-19 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

The church “pastor,” Josh Scott, says this:

There is stuff in there (Bible) that I think really goes against the character of God. There are genocides that have been divinely sanctioned in the Bible. People have used the text in the Bible, in the Bible, plain readings of the text at times to support white supremacy, to defend slavery, to defend segregation . . . Saying the Bible is inerrant and infallible, it absolves us of our responsibility to do what our ancestors did, which is to wrestle.

A Church and Pastor that claims the Bible IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD, is not a Church of Jesus Christ, it is a church of Satan. They call themselves “progressive,” well, they are progressing straight to hell. Now, I could have very well have commented something along those lines to that church, and a lot of people did do that, but when it comes to Spiritual matters, it is ALWAYS best to go back and refer to What Thus Sayeth the Lord, What Sayeth the Scriptures!

Of course we know that the Scriptures are true, perfect, and infallible and we know what God Himself says about them:

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

So, Paul directs the unbelieving Jews to, what was written, what is in the Scriptures. He directs them back to the Book of Beginnings, Genesis and what it says about Abraham and the promises that God made to him.

He says Abraham was “**fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**”

Abraham’s faith was in the ONE that made the promises – the LORD.

- Abraham believed God.
- Abraham’s faith never became weak.
- Abraham never staggered.
- Abraham was never in disbelief.
- Abraham was strong in the faith.
- Abraham gave glory to God.
- Abraham was fully persuaded.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

We discussed this last week but Paul re-iterates the fact that God imputed righteousness into Abraham, meaning he placed it in him, because Abraham believed God. But, I also love what he says next:

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Aren’t you glad of that? I sure am! I’m glad I didn’t have to be born a Jew to have righteousness imputed into me. I didn’t have to know any laws. I didn’t have to follow any laws. I didn’t have to do any kind of work. I didn’t have to know anything really. All I had to do was believe God. Believe in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. My friends, that is saving FAITH! **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

I don’t want to spoil next weeks message but listen to what he continues saying in the next Chapter: **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.