

“Blessed Is The Man”
Romans 4:9-12

Introduction:

1. We've Been Singing Songs Today:
 - That Remind Us Of God's Blessing!
 - But - Do You Understand:
 - What True Blessing & True Blessedness Is?
2. Well - In The Verses We Come To:
 - This Morning:
 - In The Book Of Romans:
 - I Trust We Will Get An Even Firmer Grasp:
 - On What God's Blessing:
 - Really Means!
 - And How To Experience It & Enjoy It:
 - In All Of Its Fulness!
3. So - If You're Not There Already:
 - Please Open Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Romans 4 - Where - Last Sunday:
 - We Ended With Verse 8:
 - Which Is A Quote From Psalm 32:2 - Which Simply Says:
 - “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin!”
 - King David - Who Penned These Words:
 - Understood That True Blessing & True Blessedness:
 - Was Not To Be Found:
 - In The Physical Or In The Material World:
 - But In The Spiritual!
 - It Can Only Come:
 - To The Man - Or The Woman:
 - Or - To Anyone - Who Has Been:
 - Forgiven Of All Their Sins!
 - Even As We Are Told:
 - In 4:7 - “Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered!”
4. But - How Can You Experience:
 - This Kind Of Blessing?
 - Well - In The Verses We Come To Next:
 - 4:9-12 - We Discover ***How!***
 - And - Once Again - It Is Through The Example Of Abraham!
 - Beginning In 4:9 - Paul Asks - “Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. / How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. / And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: / And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised!”
5. Now - As We Look More Closely:
 - At These Verses Together:
 - I Want You To Remember:
 - ***That The Pathway Of True Blessing:***
 - ***Is The Pathway Of The Gospel!***
 - The Pathway Of Justification By Faith Alone:
 - In Jesus Christ - Which Is The ***Only*** Way To Receive Forgiveness For Your Sins!
 - And - The First Thing We Find:
 - In These Verses Is That:
 - There Is:

1. *A Great Comfort In The Gospel!*

- A Great Comfort In Being:
 - Justified By Faith Alone!
 - And We See This In 4:9 - In The Word That Paul Latches On To From The Writings Of David:
 - “Blessedness!”
 - “Cometh This Blessedness Then Upon The Circumcision Only, Or Upon The Uncircumcision Also?”
 - Now - Obviously - The Condition:
 - Of “Blessedness” Referred To Here:
 - Has To Be Something Good!
 - But - Just What Does This “Blessedness” Include?
 - First - I Think Its Clear:
 - That “Blessedness” Refers To:
- The Special Forgiveness From God!
 - As David Proclaimed Back In Psalm 32:
 - When He Uses The Word:
 - “Blessed” Two Times!
 - To Be “Blessed” In Both:
 - The Old & The New Testament:
 - Means To Be Happy!
 - And David Was Really Happy:
 - And Couldn’t Get Over The Fact That:
 - His Transgression:
 - Was Forgiven!
 - His Sin:
 - Was Covered & Blotted Out!
 - And - His Iniquity:
 - Was No Longer On Imputed To Him!
 - It Was No Longer On His Ledger With God!
 - And That Made David Happy!
 - And When You Receive Forgiveness:
 - From Your Sin:
 - You Too Should Be:
 - One Of The Happiest People In This World!
 - Because - You Are Blessed!
 - And That Is A Great Comfort:
 - Only Available Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - Because Blessing Is Also:
 - The Special Favor From God!
 - The Word “Blessing” Is:
 - What Can Only Be Described As:
 - A “Grace” Word!
 - That Is - It Is A Recognition & An Admission That You’ve Received Something:
 - As An Undeserved Gift!
 - It Is Not Something You Earn!
 - It Is Something You Receive:
 - Out Of The Grace & Favor Of Someone:
 - Greater Than Yourself!
 - Even As We Are Told In Hebrew 7:7 - That:
 - “Without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better!”
 - Think About This:
 - The Next Time You Or Someone Else:
 - Uses The Word:
 - “Blessed!” **IE:** “Count Your”
 - Because True Blessing & Happiness:
 - Can Only Come:
 - From The Special Grace And Favor Of God!
 - And That Too Is A Great Comfort!

- But It Also Refers To:
- The Special Future With God!
 - Because The Word “Blessedness” Here In Romans 4:
 - Describes A Person’s Condition:
 - And State Of Being!
 - It Is A Happiness:
 - That Is Comprehensive:
 - And Complete:
 - And Continual!
 - Now - Does That Describe:
 - How You Feel Today?
 - Are You Happy:
 - Fully & Finally & Forever?
 - Likely Not - Because We Still Experience Sorrow & Pain!
 - But “Blessedness” Is Not Just About:
 - Your Present Feelings:
 - But Your Future Condition!
 - You Can Experience A Taste Of This Blessedness & Happiness In This World!
 - But - The Rest & The Best Is Yet To Come!
- And This Is The Great Comfort:
 - Of The Gospel!
 - When You Become A Christian:
 - You Are Truly Blessed!
 - Both Now & Forever!
 - But - Sadly - The Jews Did Not Understand:
 - The Nature Of “This Blessedness!”
 - They Believed And Taught:
 - That The Condition Of “Blessedness” Was Reserved *For* Them:
 - And *Through* Them:
 - *Exclusively!*
 - After All:
 - Wasn’t The Father & Founder Of Their Nation, Abraham, Told This By God Himself?
 - In Genesis 22:18 - The Lord Said:
 - “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice!”
 - But - They Forgot That:
 - “Blessing” Is A Grace Word!
 - And That Is Why:
 - In The Rest Of 4:9-10 - Paul Reminds Us That There Is:

2. *A Great Condition In The Gospel!*

- Again - In 4:9-10 - Paul Asks - “Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. / How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision!”
- Now - We Need To Remember:
 - Just How Important The Practice Of Circumcision:
 - Was To The Jewish People!
 - Without It - A Jewish Man Could Not Be Saved!
 - They Considered The Performance Of This Act:
 - As The Entrance:
 - Into The Experience Of Blessedness:
 - *With* God And *From* God!
 - But - Can True & Lasting:
 - Blessing & Happiness:
 - Come From Something Done:
 - *By* You Or *To* You?
 - Of Course Not!
 - Our Own Experience Confirms This! **IE:** Temp!

- And That's Why Paul Re-Affirms:
 - The Truth That:
 - True Blessing & Happiness:
 - That Is Full & Final & Forever:
 - Is Never Offered On:
- The Condition Of Your Flesh!
 - But - Instead - Like Abraham:
 - It Is Offered Only On:
- The Condition Of Your Faith!
 - "For We Say" - Paul Says:
 - "That Faith Was Reckoned To Abraham For Righteousness!"
 - Remember - Paul Is Only Saying:
 - What The Scripture Says!
 - Which Is A Good Example To Follow!
 - Because - In Genesis 15:6:
 - We Are Told That Abraham:
 - "Believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness!"
 - Now - This Is The **Main Point**:
 - That The Apostle Paul Is Driving At!
 - God Accepted Abraham's Faith:
 - In Lieu Of:
 - The Righteousness Required For A Right Relationship With God!
 - But - God Could Only Accept Abraham's Faith:
 - Because His Faith Rested In:
 - The Perfect Righteousness Of Another!
 - The Righteousness Of Christ:
 - Applied To His Account!
 - And Then - Paul Wants Us To Consider:
 - **When** All This Took Place!
 - Because - As The Saying Goes:
 - "Timing Is Everything!"
 - This Is A True Proverb:
 - In Most Affairs Of Life!
 - **IE**: House For Sale!
 - "Timing Is Everything!"
 - But This Is Especially True:
 - When It Comes To God's Plan Of Redemption!
 - **When** Did Abraham:
 - Receive The Blessing Of God?
 - Was It **Before**:
 - He Was Circumcised:
 - Or **After**?
 - All You Have To Do Is:
 - Go Back To Genesis To Find The Answer!
 - It Wasn't Until Genesis 17:
 - When Abraham Was 99 Years Old - When God Told Him To Be Circumcised!
 - And - This Could Have Been Anywhere From 14 - 21 Years After The Blessing Abraham Received In Genesis 15!
 - And So - Paul Makes His Answer:
 - Crystal Clear - 4:10 - "How Was It Then Reckoned? Not In Circumcision, But In Uncircumcision!"
 - You See - Abraham Believed God & Received The Blessing Of:
 - God's Forgiveness & Favor & Future - When He Still Resembled A Gentile!
 - Remember - **The Pathway Of True Blessing**:
 - **Is The Pathway Of The Gospel!**
 - And - The Only Condition Given:
 - In The Gospel:
 - Is Faith!

* So Then - What About Circumcision?

- This Would Have Been A Natural Question To The Jew!
 - Even When We Come To The Early Church In The Book Of Acts - This Was Still A Matter Of Concern!
 - In Acts 15:1 - We Are Told That - "Certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved!"
 - And This Was The Beginning Of The First Church Council - Known As The Jerusalem Council - Which Drew The Same Conclusion As Paul Does Here!
 - The Only Condition For Salvation Is Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - Its Not Of Flesh, But Of Faith!
- But - What **About** Circumcision?
 - What Is It & What Was It For?
 - In 4:11 - Paul Addresses This Question - "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised!"
 - God Designed Circumcision To Be - First:
- A Special Sign:
 - Which Was Meant To:
 - Convey The Truth About Abraham's Faith!
 - It Was Never Meant:
 - To Be A Substitute To:
 - Abraham's Faith!
 - This Means That Circumcision:
 - Was Given As An Object Lesson! **IE**:
 - To **Identify** Abraham:
 - And - To **Instruct** Abraham:
 - In His Relationship With God!
 - Abraham - By Faith Alone:
 - Was Now Separated:
 - Unto God - And Blessed!
 - **IE**: It Was A Sign Like The New Signs We've Been Given As A Church! The Sign's Of Baptism & The Lord's Supper!
 - They Are Signs Of Our Faith In Christ, Not Substitutes!
 - But - God Also Designed Circumcision To Be:
- A Special Seal:
 - Which Was Meant To:
 - Confirm The Truth About Abraham's Faith!
 - When Abraham & His Household Was Circumcised:
 - Abraham Took God's Special Sign **As** God's Special Seal:
 - And Outwardly Identified Himself As A Believer In God & His Promises!
- And So - Any External Sign Or Seal:
 - Whether In The Old Testament Or In The New:
 - Was Never Meant To Be:
 - A Substitute For:
 - The Faith That They Were Meant To Represent!
- And So Now - Through The Timing:
 - Of Abraham's Circumcision:
 - We Can Experience:

3. **A Great Connection In The Gospel!**

- Which We See In The Rest Of 4:11:
 - "That he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also!"
 - When God Made The Promise To Abraham:
 - Back In Genesis - That He Would Be:
 - "A Father Of Many Nations" - God Did Not Just Have In Mind:
 - A Natural & A Physical Family - But A Spiritual Family!
- And - The Reason God:
 - Justified Abraham Through Faith:

- Was So That He Could Fulfill His Promise To Him:
 - In All “Nations, And Kindreds, And People, And Tongues!” (Revelation 7:9)
- And Now - *Whosoever* Has:
 - The Faith Of Abraham:
 - A Faith That Rests In The Promises Of God & In The Promised One Of God:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ Is:
- Identified With Abraham!
 - In Jesus’ Day:
 - The Jews Claimed - “We Have Abraham To Our Father!” (Matthew 3:9)
 - But - What Did Jesus Say To Them?
 - “That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham!”
 - You See - God’s Promise To Abraham:
 - Was That He Would Be A Father Of A Different Sort To Many Nations!
 - A Father Of Faith:
 - Not Of Flesh!
 - A Spiritual Father:
 - Not A Natural Father!
 - **IE:** And So - There’s Truth To That Silly Song I Learned When I Was A Child - “Father Abraham” - Do You Remember How That Went? “Father Abraham Had Many Sons – Many Sons Had Father Abraham – I Am One Of Them & So Are You – So Let’s Just Praise The Lord!”
 - And - When You Believe In Jesus:
 - As Abraham Did - You Will Then Receive The:
 - Inheritance Of Abraham!
 - Look At The End Of 4:11:
 - “That righteousness might be imputed unto them also!”
 - That’s Your Inheritance, Christian!
 - If You Have The Same Faith & Reliance:
 - As Abraham:
 - You Will Experience The Same Reckoning As Abraham:
 - And Will Receive The Same Righteousness As Abraham!
 - And This Connection To Abraham:
 - Can Only Come Through The Gospel!
 - And When You Believe In Christ:
 - As Abraham Believed In Christ:
 - You Will Experience The Same Blessing As Abraham!
 - A Genuine Happiness That Is Full & Final & Forever:
 - In Christ!
 - But Then - In 4:12 - We Find That There Is Also:

4. *A Great Course In The Gospel!*

- Because - Paul Includes The Jews - When He Says That Abraham Remains:
 - 4:12 - “The father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised!”
 - It’s Not About The Flesh At All:
 - But - About Faith!
 - But - Now - In The Gospel:
 - Whether You Are A Jew:
 - Or A Gentile!
 - Whether You Are Circumcised:
 - Or Uncircumcised!
 - In The Gospel - There Is:
 - A Single Father!
 - Now - Abraham Does Not Replace:
 - God As Father - But Serves As:
 - A Type Of God - As Father!
 - He Is Another Object Lesson Given To Us By God:
 - To Help Us Understand Spiritual Truth!
 - As Abraham Is Not:

- The Father Of The Jews Only:
 - But - Is "A Father Of Many Nations" Both Naturally & Spiritually:
 - So God Is Not The God:
 - Of The Jews Only!
 - But The True God Of All!
- Isn't This What We Saw:
 - Back In 3:29-30 - "Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: / Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith!"
 - And So - Since There Is A Single Father:
 - There Is Also:
- A Single Faith!
 - In 4:11 - Paul Describes:
 - The Faith Required:
 - Of Gentiles:
 - For Salvation & Justification!
 - And - In 4:12 - Paul Describes:
 - The Faith Required:
 - Of Jews:
 - For Salvation & Justification!
 - They Too Are To:
 - "Walk In The Steps Of That Faith Of Our Father Abraham!"
 - And That Faith:
 - Is The Same Faith!
 - A Personal Faith That Looked Forward To The Single Seed Through Whom This World Would Receive God's Blessing!
 - As Paul Wrote In:
 - Galatians 3:16 - "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ!"
 - And This Faith Will Lead To:
- A Single Fellowship!
 - Even As Paul Describes Abraham:
 - In 4:12 - As "Our Father!"
 - Not Just Of The Jews:
 - But Of All Who Possess The Same Faith As Abraham!
 - And - No Matter:
 - What Other Differences There May Be:
 - If You And Someone Else:
 - Have The Same Father - What Does That Make You?
 - Family! Brothers & Sisters In Christ Through Faith!
- You Know - This Really Is:
 - The Solution & The Answer:
 - To All Of The Strife & Conflict:
 - That We Are Seeing In Our Nation Today!
 - And - As The Church Of Jesus Christ:
 - We Are To Demonstrate & Show To The World:
 - Just What This Single Fellowship:
 - Is To Be Like!
 - In Galatians 3:28:
 - Paul Reminds Us That:
 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus!"
 - And - In Colossians 3:11:
 - Paul Writes In The Church:
 - "There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all!"
- And So - This Is What Needs To Be True:
 - In Our Church:

- And - In Every Church!
 - God Never Meant For There To Be An Exclusive:
 - Jewish Church Or Gentile Church, Or White Church Or Black Church, Or Native Church Or Foreign Church – No - Its Just The Church!
- And So - As We Reflect:
 - The Single Fatherhood & Faith & Fellowship:
 - That We Have In Christ:
 - Then The World Can See That There Is Hope:
 - For Them As Well!
 - Now - Unfortunately - This Doesn't Mean:
 - That The World Will Accept:
 - This Hope & Solution - Because Many If Not Most Won't!
 - But - For Us - As A Church - We Can Reveal & Reflect The True Source:
 - Of Blessing & Happiness!
 - The Gospel!

Conclusion:

1. Paul Began These Verses By Quoting David:
 - “Blessed Is The Man” - He Wrote!
 - Are You Experiencing & Enjoying:
 - The Blessing Of The Lord Today?
 - ***The Pathway Of True Blessing:***
 - ***Is The Pathway Of The Gospel!***
 - There Is A Great Joy & Happiness:
 - That Can Only Be Found:
 - By Faith In Jesus Christ!
2. So - Remember:
 - These Great Truths About The Gospel!
 - Because - It Is Only Through This Good News:
 - That You Can Be:
 - Justified & Made Right With God!
 - And - Only Then:
 - Will You Or Anyone Else:
 - Be Fully, Finally, And Forever:
 - Happy And At Peace With God!
3. As David Also Wrote:
 - In Psalm 144:15:
 - “Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD!”

- * Are You Experiencing The Comfort & Blessing Of God Today?
- * If Not - True Blessing Can Only Come Through Faith In The Person & The Promises Of Christ!
- * And Now - Let God's Blessing On & In Your Life Shine Through!

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