

Romans

Chapter 4

In this chapter, Paul continues his argument from the last chapter against superiority of the Jewish Christians or those who had been circumcised. Here he asks the Jewish Christians to remember their common ancestor Abraham and his faith. What do you remember of Abraham and his faith?

In verse 3 the quote is from a story in Genesis 15:1-6 read it. What does that old story say to you? And what does Paul retelling it tell you?

Do you have a good definition of “righteousness” as it is used in the quote in verse 3?

The quote from David is from Psalm 32:1-2 you might want to read it all to get the meaning.

Paul goes on to note that Abraham’s righteousness came before he was circumcised. Thus, for Paul, Abraham is an ancestor of all who have faith not just the Jews.

What is Paul saying to you about faith and the law in verses 13-15? What is the link for you between faith and promise?

In the next paragraph starting with verse 16 he adds grace to the mix. Where do you see that fitting in?

By grace Paul includes the Gentiles as children of Abraham, not just the Jews (and Muslims) who claim it. What does it mean to you to claim your heritage?

How does verse 19 affirm for us, whatever our age, that God still can fulfill a promise to us and use us to help fulfill God’s promise?

Verses 23-24 let’s us know that Paul believes that the scripture about Abraham was written for the readers – like you and me! Especially we who believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Are you feeling righteous yet?

In verse 25 Paul wrote that Jesus was handed over for our trespasses and crucified for our justification. What does the word justification mean to you? Do you believe it? Do you know it?