

“The Romans Road Rebooted”—Part 7

MAY 11, 2014

✚ Verse 1 basically says, “Let’s look at Abraham’s example regarding justification.

✚ Being that this book is being written to the Church at Rome which is full of former Jews along with Gentiles, this is an exhortation to look at the example of the father of the Jews, Abraham.

- **JUSTIFICATION (WEBSTER’S DICT., 1828 ed.)**

The act of justifying; a showing to be just or conformable to law, rectitude or propriety; vindication; defense. Absolution. In law, the showing of a sufficient reason in court why a defendant did what he is called to answer. In theology, remission of sin and absolution from guilt and punishment; or an act of free grace by which God pardons the sinner and accepts him as righteous, on account of the atonement of Christ.

Abraham BELIEVED God! (4:2-8)

- **PISTEÚŌ (THAYER’S GREEK DICT.)—Pronounced PIST-YOO’-O**

To think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in: of the thing believed; to credit, have confidence; in a moral or religious reference. Used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul; to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith mere acknowledgment of some fact or event: intellectual faith. To entrust a thing to one, i.e. his fidelity; to be entrusted with a thing

1. He was not justified by His own WORKS, but by FAITH.

- **EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (ESV)**

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- **ROMANS 3:27-31 (ESV)**

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

- **JOHN 6:44, 64-65 (ESV)**

⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

2. He was justified because He believed God by faith which produced RIGHTEOUS WORKS.

- **JAMES 2:14-26 (ESV)**

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

“The quotes from James (James 2) and Paul (Romans 3) will seem, at first glance, to be at odds, but are not. Both sides of the coin of truth are true. Antinomians need James and those going about to establish their own righteousness need Paul. To take only one and not the other is dualism.”

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- + According to verse 4, if we believe we are justified by works, then our work requires a due; but if our work is not acceptable to God, then what do we receive?**
- + Therefore, verse 5 tells us it is not our work that justifies us before God, but belief in the one who justifies the ungodly by faith.**

3. Therefore, Abraham was justified by the IMPELLING of God and His WORK.

- ROMANS 4:6-8 (ESV)**

⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

- + Abraham believed God at His Word and that same Word is what completes us who are in God, by the work of Jesus Christ.**

- 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17 (ESV)**

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The blessing Abraham received is for ALL people of the FAITH of Abraham! (vs.9-12)

- 1. Abraham was blessed by God for His faith BEFORE receiving the SIGN of CIRCUMCISION.**
- 2. Thus making Abraham the father of those who BELIEVE, and then RECEIVED the sign of circumcision.**
- 3. And making Abraham the father of those who believe AFTER they received the sign of circumcision and walk in the faith Abraham had before circumcision.**

- GENESIS 17:22-27 (ESV)**

²² When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. ²³ Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. ²⁴ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶ That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. ²⁷ And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

- **ACTS 2:37-41 (ESV)**

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The fulfillment of the promise to Abraham comes through faith and not mere ADHERENCE to the LAW. (vs. 13-17)

1. The Law is definitely significant, but OBEDIENCE to it does not SAVE, as it did not Abraham.

✚ **The Law came 430 years after the promise...faith precedes the Law.**

- **ROMANS 10:5-12 (ESV)**

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

2. The Law makes us CONSCIOUS and KNOWLEDGABLE of our sin, it does not justify us before a Holy God.

- **ROMANS 3:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

✚ **If the promise depended on the Law, keeping it would not be salvation by grace through faith, but salvation by works!**

3. Obedience to the Law is the "FRUIT of the SPIRIT" EVIDENCED in us.

- **GALATIANS 5:16-24 (ESV)**

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

We are to have the faith of Abraham! (vs. 18-25)

✚ **Even though he did not know where he was going...**

✚ **Even though he and his wife were old...**

✚ **Even though he tried to do things his own way and not God's...**

✚ **Even though he could have lost his only son...Abraham believed God!**

1. Verses 20-22 remind us that Abraham did not WAVER.

- **HEBREWS 11:8-12, 17-19 (ESV)**

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore...

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

2. Verses 23-25 tells us the words written about Abraham's faith were not only for him, but for us as well; for we are HEIRS of the PROMISE.

- **GALATIANS 3:23-29 (ESV)**

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Do you believe God?