

“Trusting God Against All Odds”

Romans 4:16-5:1

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June 13, 2021

Teaching Aim: To understand it is God and God alone who gives life to the dead and calls something out of nothing. To realize God is worthy of our trust and faithful to His Word, no matter how difficult our circumstances may appear. To understand it is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone that the righteousness of God is imputed to our account.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Faced with the impossible, Abraham trusts in God. (Rom. 4:13-22)

1. Did the promise to Abraham and his seed of being *“heir to the world”* come through the law or through faith (**vs. 13**)? Who is this promise ultimately fulfilled in? (See **Gal. 3:16**) What is the meaning of the word *“righteousness?”* (See Dictionary)

2. According to **verse 14**, if salvation comes through perfect obedience to the law, people are in big trouble. How many people would be saved? (See **Rom. 3:10-12**) What do those who choose law over grace have to look forward to (**vs. 15**)? (See **Jam. 2:10; John 3:36**)

3. How would you define the word, *“sin?”* (See Dictionary) What is the primary difference between the word *“sin”* and *“transgression?”* (See Dictionary) If **Matthew 22:36-40** is *“The Great Commandment,”* what is *“the great transgression?”* (Hint: Reverse the commandment.) Is it necessary that law exist in order for a transgression (crossing over) to occur? What if there is no law (**vs. 15**)? (See **Rom. 5:13-14**)

4. What is Paul’s conclusion in **verse 16**? Who is the promise secure for? If salvation is by grace through faith, whose grace is it? What can we learn about our faith from **Eph. 2:8-9**? Could we count on our salvation if it were dependent on our good works? Why or why not? (See **Jam. 2:10**) Can we count on our salvation if it is dependent upon the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross? Why? (See **1 John 5:11-13**)

5. The word *“therefore”* indicates a conclusion is coming (**vs. 16**). What conclusion did Paul reach in **verse 15**? What conclusion did Paul come to in **verse 16**? Who receives the benefits of this promise? What title is given to Abraham in **verse 16**?
6. In **verse 17** we find a quotation from **Gen. 17:4-5**. What is the meaning of the name *“Abram”*? How does this differ from the meaning of Abram’s new name *“Abraham”*? (Hint: See Bible footnotes for **Gen. 17:4-5** or Commentary notes.) What can we learn about God’s faithfulness to His Word from this name change?
7. What do you think Paul meant when he wrote in **verse 17**, *“God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did?”* (See Commentaries) How do you see this statement being fulfilled in the life of Abraham and Sarah? (See **Gen. 16:1-2; 21:1-3; Rom. 4:19**)
8. What can we learn about Abraham’s faith from **verse 18**? Do you find yourself trusting God no matter what you are facing in your life? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your trust in God? Have you grown in your faith over the years? If so, what has caused your faith to grow?
9. Why were Abraham and Sarah’s bodies considered dead in **verse 19**? Often it is not until we reach the end of ourselves that God does His greatest work in our lives. Why? Can you share an illustration where God went to work in your life? How did this affect you spiritually?
10. If Abraham was 100 years old (**vs. 19**), how old was Sarah? (See **Gen 17:17**) What do you find more remarkable, that Abraham fathered a child at 100, or that Sarah bore a child and gave birth at age 90? Up until this time Sarah had tried to have a child all of her life but could not. What is “a God thing?” Why can we safely call Sarah’s pregnancy at 90 *“a God thing?”*

11. According to **verse 20**, did Abraham waiver in his faith that God would fulfill His promise? What happened to Abraham through this experience? How did Abraham bring “*glory to God?*” How does “*trusting God*” and “*believing in His Word*” bring glory to God today? Are you bringing glory to God by the way you live your life? Why or why not? What are some positive changes you can make in your life so that others know that you love and follow God?

12. What principle can we learn from Abraham in **verse 21** and apply to our own lives? “*Faith and action go hand in hand,*” how did this principle relate to Abraham and Sarah in their old age? How does this principle relate to Christians today?

13. What resulted from Abraham’s faith according to **verse 22**? What is the meaning of “*imputed righteousness*” and why is it so important to every Christian’s salvation? (See **Phil. 3:7-11**) Whose righteousness is imputed to our account?

Part II: The imputed righteousness in Jesus Christ and the hope of the resurrection. (Rom. 4:23-25)

1. Do you think **Genesis 15:6** was written for Abraham alone or for the benefit of everyone who reads the Bible (**vs. 23**)? What is the purpose of sacred Scripture? (See **Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**) Do you have a regular routine of spending time in God’s Word and praying every day? Why is it important for us to read the Bible every day? Have you ever read through the entire Bible? If not, what is stopping you? Are you willing to commit to reading through the entire Bible starting with the New Testament?

2. According to **verse 24**, who receives this gift of “*imputed righteousness?*” (See **2 Cor. 5:21**) Do you see the resurrection of Christ as an essential part of the gospel message? Why or why not? (See **Acts 1:22; 4:2, 33; 17:18; 1 Cor. 15:4**)

3. What are the words “*delivered up*” referring to in **verse 25**? (See **Rom. 5:8-9; 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3-4**) Why was it necessary that Christ die on the cross for our sins? (See **Gal. 3:10-14**) How do “*the resurrection of Christ*” and “*justification*” (meaning: forgiveness and being “*declared righteous*”) work together in our salvation (**vs. 25**)?

Part III: The first benefit of “justification by faith” is peace with God. (Rom. 5:1)

1. Once again the word “*therefore*” leads us to another conclusion. What conclusion did Paul reach in **Romans 5:1**? What eternal benefit does our justification bring (**vs. 1**)? Why do unregenerate men and women desperately need to have peace with God? (See **John 3:36**) Did you consider yourself at war with God before coming to Christ? According to the Bible, were you? (See **Rom. 8:6-8**) Describe how your life has changed since coming to faith in Christ? What can the true believer in Christ know for sure from having undergone regeneration, justification and now being in a state of “*peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*”? (See **1 John 5:11-13**)
2. Have you trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in the quietness of this moment? In prayer confess your sins to God and receive Jesus Christ personally as your Savior and Lord. By doing so, you will receive eternal life and have “*peace with God*” which has so preciousely been purchased by the blood of Christ. (**Rom. 5:1**)

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Justification is God declaring a guilty sinner, not guilty through faith in Christ; it is an act of God’s grace.
- Abraham is “*the father of the faithful*”, not only for believing Jews, but also for all the believing Gentiles.
- Abraham did not waver in his belief in the promises of God, even when all seemed impossible from a human perspective.
- Trusting God through what seemed to be impossible actually strengthened Abraham’s faith and it can strengthen ours.
- Abraham’s unwavering faith in God was accounted to him for righteousness.
- Old and New Testament saints are saved the same way, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.