

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



5. Righteous by Faith

Introduction

As we have studied the book of Romans we have learnt that we are made righteous in God's sight by faith in Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul now goes on to show that this was always God's plan, even back in the time of Abraham. He quotes from the book of Genesis where it says how Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:1-25

- ☉ Why is it that God's righteousness can only be credited or given to us when we have faith? Verses 4-8

(It is given to us as a gift, not because we deserve it, as we have all broken God's law. We can only receive it by faith.)

- ☉ When did Abraham receive God's righteousness according to verses 9 to 11? What does this teach us? See verses 11-13.

(Abraham received God's righteousness before he was circumcised. He was not made righteous because he was circumcised or obeyed the law, rather he was made righteous by faith. This shows us that there is nothing we can do to receive righteousness. It is all by faith.)

- ☉ Some people think that because they were baptised or take communion they are saved. How would you answer such a person? How could you use the example of Abraham to help explain this to them?

- ☉ Which promise is Paul referring to in verses 13 and 17? Compare with Genesis 17:4-6.

(This is the promise that Abraham would be a blessing to the nations and that he would be the father of many nations.)

- ☉ Why could this promise only be true if righteousness comes by faith? Romans 4:13-17

(If righteousness came by the law then it would only be for those who had the law. i.e. the Jews. Then Abraham could not have been the father of many nations and God's promise would not be fulfilled.)

- ☉ How did Abraham show faith in this situation? Romans 4:18-22

(He showed faith by believing that he would have a son even though his body, and that of Sarah's was as good as dead.)

- ☉ Abraham saw the difficulties and yet he kept on believing. How can we strengthen our faith at times when we see the difficulties? What can we learn from Abraham's life?

(Although Abraham faced the reality of the situation he believed God could do the impossible. If God said he would do it, he would keep his word. We also need to keep putting our trust in God and not our circumstances, remembering the word that he has spoken to us.)

- ☉ Why does Paul say the words spoken about Abraham were for us too? Romans 4:22-25

(These words were written to help us also believe and understand that we too can be made righteous before God by faith.)

- ☉ Just as Abraham's testimony encourages us, our testimony can encourage others. Share a time when you were facing difficulties and someone else's testimony encouraged your faith.

Conclusion

Whatever background we have come from, we can all receive God's forgiveness and be made right with Him, by believing what he has said in his word. Abraham was accepted by God because he believed what God had said to him. Romans 4:23-24 says, "the words, 'It was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believed in him ..." Have you already believed? If not, do so today. If you have, continue to believe his wonderful promises, for with God nothing is impossible.

