

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: January 13, 2021

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

4:1-25—Paul illustrates justification by faith alone in the Old Testament.

Two Observations

1. Romans 4 presupposes familiarity with the biblical story of Abraham (esp. the Abrahamic Covenant). Three major provisions: 1) Land; 2) seed or offspring; 3) world-wise blessing.
2. "Credited" (logizomai) = 11 times (vv. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24). It's a banking term and means "to put to one's account." When a person works, that one earns a salary & this money is put to the person's account (direct deposit). But Abraham did not work for his salvation; he simply trusted God's Word (the promise). It was Jesus who did the work on the cross, and it was His righteousness that was put to Abraham's account.

Four Assertions Regarding Abraham's Justification

1. Abraham was not _____ by works (**vv. 1-8**)
 - A. _____ is out: "but not before God"
See Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 6:4; 1 Cor. 1:26-31 – "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."
 - B. _____ is clear (4:3; cp. Gen. 15:6). What does the Bible say?
"There's no mention of works in this passage. Abraham kept no law, rendered no service, and performed no ritual that earned credit to his account before God. His faith in God, who had made promises to him, was credited to him as righteousness." (**NIV Study Bible note on 4:3**)
 - C. The _____ are supportive (4:6-8; cp. Psalm 32:1-2)
Abraham's story is in the law section of the Hebrew Bible, & David's is in the prophets section. Here is the second witness referred to in 3:21.
2. Abraham was not justified by _____ (**vv. 9-12**)
 - A. The _____ of Genesis proves Paul's case.
Abraham received two distinct gifts of God, justification & circumcision, and in that order. First, he received justification by faith while he was still uncircumcised. Second, he received circumcision as a visible sign and seal of the justification which was already his.
 - B. The same situation applies to Christian _____.
3. Abraham was not justified by the _____ (**vv. 13-17a**)
 - A. It came _____ later (1445 B.C.)
 - B. It brings _____ (vv. 13-15)
 - C. The promise comes by _____ (vv. 16-17a).

4. Abraham was justified by _____ (vv. 17b-22)

A. Abraham's faith was " _____ " (v. 19)

B. Abraham's faith was in _____ (17b-22).

He is "the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were."

5:1-11— Paul explains the experiential results that justified people enjoy

Having explained **the need for** justification (1:18-3:20) & **the way of** justification (3:21-4:25) the apostle now describes its fruits or "blissful consequences". It appears he's enlarging on what he called "the blessedness" of those whom God justifies (4:6-8; Psalm 32:1, 2).

1. We have _____ with God (vss. 1-2a)

A. Peace is a _____ human _____.

B. Peace comes "through our Lord Jesus Christ" (cp. 4:25)

The prophets foretold that peace would be the supreme blessing of the messianic age inaugurated by Jesus, the Messiah (see Isa. 9:1-2, 6-7). Thru Jesus (the Prince of Peace) we have . . .

1) Peace _____ (5:1)

2) Peace _____

3) Peace _____ (see Phil. 4:6-9; Matt. 6:19-34; Isa. 26:3)

4) Peace _____ (Isa. 2:1-5; 9:1-7; 11:1-10)

2. We rejoice in our _____ (vs. 2b): "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."

A. The Nature of our Hope

The "hope" this passage speaks about contains no _____. It speaks of something that is certain, but _____ realized (see 8:24-25).

B. The Object of our Hope . . . to _____ in the very _____ of God.

3. We rejoice in our _____ (vss. 3-4)

Definition:

The Greek noun: **θλίψις *thlipsis*** ("tribulation, suffering, affliction"). It comes from a vb. which means "to crush, press, compress, squeeze" like that of a press squeezing the fluid from olives or grapes.

A. The sufferings _____ to all men living life in a fallen world.

B. The sufferings _____ to Christians (John 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12)

Question:

What attitude should Christians adopt to these sufferings? Far from enduring them with stoic fortitude, we are to "rejoice in them" ("to exult, to glory, to boast"). This is not masochism (the sickness of finding pleasure in pain); it is rather, the recognition that there is a divine rationale and purpose behind suffering.

- A. Suffering is the one and only path to glory (cp. Rom. 8:17; Phil. 3:9ff., Acts 5:41).
- B. If suffering leads to glory in the end, it leads to _____ in the meantime. For the believer, sufferings work for him, not against him (5:3b-4; & 1 Pt. 4:12-13; Jam. 1:2-4; Job 23:10)

Principles:

- A. Every trial we face is _____ by God for our ultimate _____.
 - B. Trials need not _____ our _____.
 - C. God's never more _____ than when His children are suffering.
 - 1) He is an _____ fellowshipping with us.
 - 2) He is an _____ listening to us.
 - 3) He is a loving _____ us (Heb. 12:6-9)
 - 4) He is a _____ sustaining us (2 Cor. 12:9)
4. We are _____ in Christ (vss. 5-11)
 "Hope does not disappoint us" (NLT: "and this hope will not disappoint us")
- A. God has _____ His love into us by the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs. 5b)
 - B. God has _____ His love for us in the death of His Son (vss. 6-8)
 - 1) The _____ of the gift
 - 2) The _____ of the recipients
 - C. God's love will _____ our final salvation (vss. 9-11)
 Paul argues from the lesser to the greater!

SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:

The reality is, we are all living between the already and the not yet. We're in the middle; and it's easy to get lost.

- 1. Many of us live in a permanent state of _____. We've forgotten where we live.
- 2. We're justified, but we're not glorified yet. So believer, watch out for _____ which leads to "identity replacement" (identity in achievement; identity in acceptance; identity in performance; identity in physical things). All identity replacements are a delusion; they result in disappointment, and emptiness (even despair). Life in the middle can get confusing.
 - A. The secret of rejoicing is having the right _____.
 - B. The willingness to focus involves the right _____.
 - C. The result of a right attitude is an unquenchable _____.