

Reckoned for Righteousness

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Gal. 3:6; Rom. 4:21-22; Gen. 15:6
- B. How does God account righteousness?
 - 1. Is it an arbitrary process that depends on a whim?
 - 2. Are there any secret criteria that need to look for?
 - 3. Has God fully revealed to us how He accounts or imputes righteousness to men?

I. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS BASED ON GOD'S REVELATION

- A. God revealed Himself to Abraham
 - 1. In Ur of the Chaldees - Acts 7:2-4; Gen. 15:7
 - 2. At Haran of Mesopotamia - Gen. 12:1-4
 - 3. At Shechem in Canann - Gen. 12:6-7
 - 4. After Lot moved to Sodom - Gen. 13:14-17
 - 5. Frequently - Gen. 15:1-17, 17:1-27, 18:1-33, 22:1-19
 - 6. God made His will clear to Abraham; it was then up to Abraham to respond to what God had revealed about Himself
- B. Our faith must be based on what God revealed about Himself and His will
 - 1. Faith comes through the Word of God - Rom. 10:17
 - 2. It contains evidence that we might believe - John 20:30-31

II. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WILL

- A. By faith, Abraham obeyed God
 - 1. He left his country - Heb. 11:8
 - 2. He wandered in a foreign land - Heb. 11:9-10
 - 3. He offered his son Isaac - Heb. 11:17
 - 4. Abraham's faith was not a dead faith but a dynamic faith James 2:20-26
- B. By faith, we must obey God
 - 1. The gospel calls for obedience to the faith - Rom. 1:5, 16:25-26
 - 2. We obey from the heart the doctrine of Christ - Rom. 6:17; Gal. 5:6

III. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS BUILT OF TRUST

- A. Abraham trusted in god, not his own works
 - 1. Gen. 15:6 - Abraham believed in the Lord; his faith was reckoned for righteousness
 - 2. Rom. 4:1-3 - Abraham was not justified because of his works
 - 3. Though he had a faith that works, he did not trust in his works; rather in God who justifies the ungodly - Rom. 4:5-8
- B. We must trust in God, not our works
 - 1. Faith is a work - John 6:28-29
 - 2. Baptism is more a work of God than a work of man - Col. 2:12-13
 - 3. But when all is done, we must not put our trust in our obedience, as though we somehow earned our salvation - Luke 17:10

IV. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS A GROWING FAITH

- A. Abraham grew in faith, even though there were times when his faith was weak
 - 1. He had Sarah his wife tell a half-truth to save his life
 - a. Gen. 12:11-20, 20:1-18
 - 2. He questioned God when he and Sarah did not have children
 - a. Gen. 15:2-3
 - 3. He showed weak faith in the case of Hagar - Gen. 16:1-4
 - 4. He offered an alternative to God when he thought it would be impossible for he and Sarah to have children - Gen. 17:17-18
 - 5. But God was patient with Abraham while his faith grew
 - a. He had faith, even against hope, and was able to conceive Rom. 4:18-22
 - b. He had faith that God could raise Isaac from the dead, and so was willing to offer him as commanded - Heb. 11:17-19
 - 6. The increasing faith of Abraham led to him be called a friend of God
 - a. James 2:23
- B. We must grow in faith
 - 1. As the apostles of Christ - Matt. 8:25-26, 14:31
 - 2. Into men of great boldness - Acts 4:13
 - 3. Like the Thessalonians - 2Thes. 1:3
 - 4. Rom. 4:12

V. FAITH IS GOD'S CHOICE IN RECKONING MAN'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Justification is by God
 - 1. Offered freely by His grace - Rom. 3:24-25
 - a. Through redemption in Jesus blood - Eph. 1:6-7; 1Peter 1:18-19
 - b. Jesus offered as a propitiation or sacrifice to appease God's wrath for sin - 1John 2:2, 4:10
 - 2. Demonstrating God's righteousness - Rom. 3:25-26
 - 3. This justification is only for the one who has faith in Jesus - Rom. 3:26
- B. Eliminates potential for boasting by man
 - 1. Excluded by the law of faith - Rom. 3:27-30
 - a. One cannot boast about the works they do - Luke 17:10
 - b. The fact that faith is required implies works alone cannot save
 - c. The law of faith revealed that Christ's sacrifice was necessary
 - 2. Establishing the principle of law - Rom. 3:31
 - a. Justification by faith doesn't make obedience obsolete - Heb. 5:9
 - b. Whether it was the Law of Moses under the Old Covenant, or the Will of Christ under the New Covenant, God calls for obedience -
 - c. Matt. 28:20; Titus 2:11-12