

October 20/21, 2012

## **The Gospel Story: Like Abraham**

*A Study of Romans*

**Romans 4:1-25**

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### **Opening Discussion**

1. Why is it so hard to believe we are justified apart from works? What makes grace such a hard concept to simply accept?
2. Based on your answer to the question above, what makes religion so popular?
3. What are some practical ways we can help good moral people see that their works, good as they might be, are not good enough to erase their sin which separates them from God?

### **Bible Study**

1. Do a quick review of Romans 3:21-26. What is the basis for salvation?
2. Review Romans 3:28. Compare Ephesians 2:8-9. What is the role of good works in accomplishing our salvation according to Paul in these passages?
3. Read Romans 4:1-8. Is salvation according to works? What is the difference between a wage and grace?
4. Why does Paul use David as an example of salvation by faith? What had David “earned” as a wage and what did he receive instead?
5. Read Romans 4:9-12. Was Abraham declared righteous because of his circumcision or because of his faith? How does Paul make this argument? How does this make Abraham the father of all who believe and actually father of believing Gentiles before he became the father of the Jews?

6. Read Romans 4:13-16. What is true of salvation by faith if people can make themselves right by keeping the law? Is it possible to mix in a little law (works) to faith and have it still be faith? Why or why not? Compare Galatians 5:1-6.
7. Read Romans 4:17-22. Do we believe because the Gospel Story all makes sense based on human reasoning or do we believe because we simply believe God tells the truth? How does the story of Abraham and Sarah illustrate this?
8. Read Romans 4:23-25. What is the message for us today?

## **Application**

1. Is there anything we can add to what Jesus has already done to make ourselves more righteous in the presence of God? Why or why not?
2. If we continue to struggle with our shame and guilt is that a mark of humility or is that simply unbelief? Explain.
3. If the righteousness of God is credited to our account simply by faith and because of this no sin is credited to our account, how should we view ourselves? How does how we view ourselves affect how we live our lives on a daily basis?