

The Book of Romans

Chapter Four - *Becoming Strong in Faith*

I. Review - The Greatest Book in the New Testament for the Christian! Why?

- A. This one Book in your Bible condenses down the greatest themes of all time - the themes of sin, judgment, salvation, sanctification, real victory, eternal security, and service for the Lord!
- B. In Chapter 1, the apostle Paul has described the condition of the human heart in very vivid terms - as depraved (To be ruined utterly in character or quality: stained, corrupted), and therefore lost!
- C. In Chapter 2, Paul outlined the Judgment of God against man's condition, and how God is righteous in judging.
- D. In Chapter 3, the Lord dealt with the fact that There Is No Difference between ANY human being *in reference to sin*:
- E. Lastly, the Lord explains _____ (3:25-31)

II. Focus Verse: Romans 4:3

III. Chapter Four - Becoming Strong in Faith (4:1-25)

A. The _____ of Faith (4:1-8). The Bible is filled with examples!

1. Abraham (4:1-5) What has Abraham found? 3 wonderful things!
 - a. Righteousness - where? Not in himself (3:20-22)
 - b. Justification - He found the way to be "_____" (4:2-5)
 - 1) By works? NO! (Tit 3:5; Eph 2:8,9) Then would God owe it to him.
 - 2) By faith! Faith in what? God, yes, but more than that! Faith particularly *in* _____! Even the devils believe in God (James 2:19)! You had better believe His word! Not on experience! Religion is based upon experience - salvation is based upon trusting God's word.
 - c. Imputation - the method of justification is by transfer of accounts (1Pet 3:18)
 - 1) Abraham was not born righteous - there was a time and place where God's righteousness was transferred to Him, so he therefore did not have it to begin with!
 - 2) As we shall see, David was not born righteous - he needed God's righteousness transferred to him to be saved as well!
 - 3) Therefore, Jesus says in John 3 that ALL must be born again - a whole new spiritual birth where God's righteousness is imputed to the sinner, and the sinner's sins are imputed back to Christ!
 - 4) Don't believe for a minute that you were born righteous! You were born a sinner just like the rest of us, and like Abraham, you need to repent of sin, and completely trust God's substitute in your place - Jesus Christ! AMEN!!
 - d. The same salvation that Abraham found, is available to ALL (3:22)!
 - e. Don't reject it! Come to Christ today, and receive the forgiveness of sin
2. King David (4:6-8) - Three Scriptures (2 Sam 11,12; Ps 32; 51)
 - a. We have to go back and see the background events to this statement (2 Sam 11,12)
 - 1) King David commits adultery with another man's wife - Bathsheba, who was married to Uriah
 - a) David is bored and does the equivalent of flipping through his Sky movies - He starts scanning the evening horizon of housetops for some activity
 - b) He spots a woman who has chosen to take a bath out on her housetop (strange place if you ask me)
 - c) David, who already was married several times over, decides that the game is on - if she is willing to portray herself out in the open, then she must be open game
 - d) David finds out that she is willingly "open game" - the *TWO* commit Adultery
 - e) But God knows all about it! Bathsheba gets pregnant - a definitely unwanted pregnancy
 - 2) King David then attempts to cover up that sin by murdering Uriah, so that he can marry Bathsheba

- a) King David must get Bathsheba's husband back there so that Uriah could take responsibility for the child (that's what people want, someone ELSE to take over)
 - b) Uriah doesn't bend, and so is murdered by order of the king!
 - c) David goes ahead and marries Bathsheba (both of them are truly worthless sinners!)
- 3) Then an old prophet of God named Nathan shows up and announces that David is a wicked adulterer and murderer! David's secret is known! But what to do?
 - 4) Problem: *Murder* and *adultery* were no "normal" sins that a person could just go get a lamb and confess their sin, and the lamb pay for them. There was no sacrifice available to the murderer or the Adulterer. According to the Law of the Old testament, they had to DIE!
- b. Here is where something happens in the life of David (Ps 51)
 - 1) He _____ his sin
 - 2) He _____ full responsibility - no excuses are given
 - 3) He _____ God's righteous judgment - no defense made!
 - 4) Then God says, "That's what I needed to see in you David - a broken and contrite heart." David repented.
 - 5) Then the Lord did something wonderful - God DID NOT "impute" the sin of David to David's record!
 - 6) Question: To _____ was the sin imputed then? There was no lamb sacrifice that David could offer? See Isa 53:6
 - c. Now, THAT is SALVATION!
- B. The _____ of Faith (4:13; 4:9-17), as opposed to Works!**
1. Righteousness is Not Limited to the Jew Only (4:9-11)
 - a. Circumcision identified the Jew from the Gentile
 - b. Circumcision was a sign and seal - it was not salvation (4:11)! NOTE: It was *after* Abraham's salvation that he was circumcised.
 2. Righteousness is Not applied by the Law (4:11-15)
 - a. Abraham obtained righteousness completely by faith (4:3)
 - b. Abraham became the 'father' of two different peoples:
 - 1) Spiritual father of a special people who follow HIS steps of FAITH, NOT his works!!!
 - 2) Physical father of a special people called the Jews.
 - 3) Father in the sense of LEADER, EXAMPLE
 - 4) Father in the sense of being the beginning of God's Heritage. From the beginning, God has had HIS people, and the devil has had his (Cf John 8:44)!
 - c. Note that 'the promise' was not given through the works of the O.T. Law, but always by FAITH (4:13)
 - d. Note that Faith is the exact opposite of Works (4:14, 4)!
 - e. The law brings wrath onto those who cannot keep it perfectly (James 2:10)!
 - f. What Abraham did was escape the law's ability to judge him (Cf 4:6-8)!
 3. Righteousness is God's Business (4:16,17) - Not Man's!
 - a. Is imputed by God's grace (Cf Eph 2:8,9), not our works
 - b. Is made sure to ALL the seed - not up to chance, and effort
 - c. Is based upon God's abilities - not ours! To resurrect the dead, and to create a universe out of nothing!
- C. The _____ of Faith (4:17-22) How Faith Works**
1. Faith Must have an _____ to Trust - Not Blind Faith (4:16,17)
 - a. The Promises of God - spoken word of God (Cf Matt 4:4)
 - 1) You can trust God - not to lie to you!

- 2) You can rest in the fact that He did not leave His word up to oral tradition, but rather in a written, verifiable document!
- b. The God behind the Promises
 - 1) God gave His word so that you could know Him
 - 2) And so that you could trust Him
2. Faith Has Got to _____ the Obstacles in the Way to the Promise (4:18-20)
 - a. “Against hope...” Lack of understanding - Abraham could not figure out HOW God would do what He was promising - yet he had HOPE (confidence)
 - b. “His own body now dead...” Lack of strength - Neither Abraham nor Sarah had no physical ability to obtain God’s promise - so he directed all his strength into his faith
 - c. “Staggered not...” Lack of determination - As in a boxing ring, with “blow” after “blow” coming against you as you go against the flow! Abraham did not “stagger,” no matter what obstacles he encountered
3. Faith Can _____ in its Confidence (4:21)
 - a. Note that Abraham was not “partially” persuaded, but **fully**
 - b. The *work* was in God’s hands - Abraham knew that only God could fulfill God’s promises - so why should Abraham even try? Abraham has got enough to do, just to stay submitted, and close to God in this wicked world!
4. Faith Will Obtain the _____ Reward (4:22)
 - a. Abraham got a son - Isaac
 - b. Abraham himself became a son - a son of God “BY FAITH!”
- D. **The _____ of Faith** (4:23-25)
 1. It is one thing to KNOW ABOUT Abraham’s faith - it is another thing to actually POSSESS Abraham’s faith! There exists the same opportunity for people today to experience what Abraham experienced. Faith is the door of that opportunity!
 2. The opportunity of faith is revealed in a written, verifiable account - God’s record (4:23,24; Gen 15:1,5,6). Not traditions or opinions
 - a. Abraham believed not only “in the Lord,” but in what He SAID - so you have to possess what God said (Matt 4:4)!
 - b. God provided the only thing that would increase a person’s faith in Him (Rom 10:17) - not his or her experiences!
 - c. Therefore, if God recorded all this, there must have been a reason (4:23,24). Not just for historical records (Rom 15:4), but for US - YOU and ME!
 3. The opportunity here has some _____ though (4:24)
 - a. Believe on the same God the same way - completely by faith
 - b. Trust in the Saviour’s works instead of your own
 - c. Accept the free gifts of salvation (God’s gifts are free) - which follow
 4. The opportunity has some excellent pay-off (results) (4:23-25)
 - a. Imputation - Transfer of sin to a Saviour
 - b. Justification - Transfer of God’s righteousness to you
 - c. Eternal Life! Direct access to heaven and eternity with Christ
- E. Therefore: To become strong in faith involves:
 1. Following the examples of faith as recorded in this Book
 2. Seeking the righteousness and power of faith instead of our good works
 3. Putting your faith into operation
 4. Availing yourself of every opportunity that faith provides! Trust the Lord for salvation, and then for EVERYTHING in life!

IV. Study Questions

A.