

## FAITH TO BE SAVED

**BIBLE TEXT** : Romans 4:1-25; Genesis 12:1-3; 15:6

### LESSON 383 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered" (Romans 4:7).

#### BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

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#### **Romans 4:1-25**

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

<sup>2</sup> For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

<sup>3</sup> For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

<sup>5</sup> But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

<sup>7</sup> *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*

<sup>8</sup> Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

<sup>9</sup> *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

<sup>11</sup> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith

#### BIBLE REFERENCES:

##### Notes:

##### **A Letter**

The Book of Romans is a letter written by Paul to Christians who were living in the city of Rome. He wrote to them about salvation, the new birth (being born again), which is the first step in being a follower of Jesus. Often today we hear sermons about salvation. They are helpful to all who hear them. Those who are saved receive instruction to tell about salvation. Those who are not saved learn how to be saved, and are encouraged to be saved.

##### **The Just**

Paul quoted the Prophet Habakkuk, saying, "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). The "just" are those who are justified and righteous. To be justified means to be free from guilt. It is another name for being saved. One must have faith in order to be saved. The just must have faith in order to be kept by the power of God.

##### **An Example**

Abraham is an example of one who was justified by faith — who was saved because he had faith. The Jews all refer to Abraham as their father. It was he whom God called from the land of Ur of the Chaldees to go to the Land of Canaan (**Genesis 11:31** <sup>31</sup> And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.). With that call came the wonderful promise that God would make a nation of him. God said that in Abraham "all families of the earth" would be blessed. This was a covenant or agreement between God and Abraham.

##### **To Canaan**

Abraham obeyed God, and started with his family to Canaan, the land of promise. Abraham kept his part of the agreement with God when he went to Canaan. But for many years afterwards, he did not see the fulfilment of God's promise. Abraham believed God and had faith in Him. Abraham was obedient to God and that helped his faith.

##### **Believing God**

When a sinner goes to the altar to pray, he admits his wrong, repents of his sins, and asks for pardon. When he believes God and the promises of God, he is saved. Another person can be sorry for his sins and ask forgiveness, but unless he has faith in God he will not be saved.

##### **Faith in God**

Here are some portions of Scripture, which show us that we must have faith in God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

##### **As the Stars**

After Abraham had been in the Land of Canaan for some time, God appeared to him. Abraham reminded God of His promise, and told Him that he had no children. Maybe Abraham wondered how he would become a whole nation. God renewed His promise. He told Abraham to look at the stars and see if he could count them. Then the Lord said that Abraham's family would be as numerous as the stars. God

which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

<sup>12</sup> And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which *he had* being *yet* uncircumcised.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was* not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

<sup>14</sup> For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

<sup>15</sup> Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

<sup>17</sup> (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

<sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

<sup>19</sup> And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he

promised Abraham a son. Abraham "believe in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).

### **Able to Do**

Many years passed but Abraham "was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Abraham knew that God was able to do what He had promised. How wonderful to have that confidence in God! As we read about Abraham and his faith in God it should help us to believe God's promises. Satan tells some people that God will not save them, that their sins are too great. That is not true. The Lord said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). In the Proverbs is a promise of mercy: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). In the Psalms we read that God will save those who have a "contrite" or repenting spirit (**Psalm 34:18**<sup>18</sup> The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.). It may seem impossible that God would "remember no more" one's sins (**Hebrews 8:12** <sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.) and that He would remove one's transgressions "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12), but God does it for those who believe. What God has promised He is able to do.

### **The Son of Promise**

At a time in their life when it seemed impossible, God sent Abraham and his wife a son, after they had waited 25 years. Isaac was the son of promise. In this way, God began to fulfil His part of the agreement that He had made with Abraham. Through this one son God brought about the great nation, which God had promised Abraham. Although Abraham did not live to see that nation, he believed God. Abraham lived to be 175 years old. He was still living when his twin grandsons were born.

### **Jesus, the Messiah**

One of those boys, Jacob, became the father of 12 sons (**Genesis 35:22** <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:). The families of these sons became the Children of Israel — God's chosen people, the Jews. Many years later, among these people of the tribe of Judah of the house of David, Jesus was born — Jesus, the Saviour in whom all nations would be blessed!

Abraham was not living at the time Jesus was on earth. But by faith Abraham looked forward to the time when Jesus should die on the cross.

### **Purchased**

Jesus took our place, and suffered for our sins. He shed His Blood to pay the price, which purchased our salvation. A pardon is given to those who have faith in Jesus and who believe in Him. Their sins are blotted out and righteousness is put in the place of their sins.

### **Not Works**

Abraham did not buy his righteousness. Neither can a person today use a sum of money to buy salvation. Jesus paid the price. Through faith in His shed Blood our sins are blotted out.

Abraham did not work many years to receive righteousness, as one receives wages. If he had, Abraham would have been able to boast, of what he had done. But "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

Abraham is the father of faith — "the father of all them that believe." Those who are saved are the children of Abraham (**Galatians 3:7** <sup>7</sup> Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.). Those who belong to Christ are the seed of Abraham and "heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29). As Abraham had faith, so must we have faith in order to have our sins taken away.

was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

<sup>20</sup> He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

<sup>21</sup> And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

<sup>22</sup> And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

<sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

<sup>24</sup> But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

<sup>25</sup> Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

<sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

### **Genesis 15:6**

<sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham's family did not inherit righteousness. It was not an inheritance of the Law. "God gave it to Abraham by promise" (Galatians 3:18). Each person, individually, had to have faith in order to be saved and to receive righteousness. David knew about it and experienced it. David said, "Blessed [happy] is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1). That is the way you can be happy, too — by having your sins covered with Jesus' Blood. Have faith in the Lord!

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Who wrote the Book of Romans?
2. To whom was it written?
3. What man did God call out of the land of Ur of the Chaldees?
4. What blessing did God promise Abraham?
5. How long did Abraham wait for the son of promise?
6. How did Jesus bring a blessing to all nations?
7. What counted as righteousness for Abraham?
8. How can one be saved today?
9. Who can be saved today?
10. Who is the father of faith?