

1What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather **according to the flesh**, has found? **2**For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3**For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS **CREDITED** TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” [Genesis 15:6] **4**Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. **5**But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, **6**just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. **8**“BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.” [Psalm 31:1-2]

9Is this **blessing** then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.” **10**How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; **11**and he received the sign of circumcision, a **seal of the righteousness** of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, **12**and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

13For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. **14**For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; **15**for the Law brings about wrath, but **where there is no law, there also is no violation.**

1-3 Even though Abraham was the forefather of the “Hebrews,” his justification was not based on works. Why? Under what circumstances was Abraham “credited” righteousness?

3 “Credited” ελογισθη (**3049**, middle voice from λογος; to take an inventory, i.e. estimate (literally or figuratively) -- conclude, (ac-)count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).)

4-5 Why are works an insufficient basis for crediting righteousness? Why is it useful to assert works are sufficient to credit righteousness?

Why should we believe in, **much less have faith in, a God who justifies the ungodly?**

6-8 How does this passage from David demonstrate the demarcation between works and righteousness?

By identifying _____ is _____, _____ is _____, and _____ is not taking sin into account.

9-12 What point is Paul making about circumcision?

Circumcision does not credit one for righteousness. Why not?

This accreditation came _____ circumcision.

9 What is the “blessing” which the uncircumcised can receive?

Blessings are not _____.

Blessings are whatever _____ to God.

Gifts can be blessings or curses—what bring us closer to God determines their status.

9-12 Why did Paul emphasize circumcision of all?

11-12 Why did Abraham receive this seal of righteousness?

13-15 On what basis was Abraham promised to be “heir of the world?” Why did Paul think it necessary to point this out?

15 How do you reconcile “Where there is no law, there is no violation” with “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God?”

Hint: Why do not the “uncircumcised” violate the Law by not sacrificing lambs on the Day of Atonement, yet the “circumcised” do violate the Law if they fail to sacrifice on the Day of Atonement?

16For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is **the father of us all**, **17**(as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives **life to the dead** and calls into being that which does not exist. **18**In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” **19**Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since **he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb**; **20**yet, with respect to the promise of God, he **did not waver in unbelief** but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, **21**and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

RR MINDBYTE NO. 5

Is Paul’s description of Abraham’s faith exaggerated here? Paul said, “...he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith.” Lying to Egypt’s king? Being seduced by Sarah? Sleeping with Hagar? Kicking Ishmael out of the household?

What is a modern parallel of applauding the best of a Godly man without discussing all his “dirty laundry?” A modern Noah?

22Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. [Genesis 15:6] **23**Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, **24**but for our sake also, **to whom it will be credited**, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, **25**He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

16 Who is father of us all? Why was/is this statement such a revolutionary statement? Who is “all” here?

Why do you suppose the Hebrews and later the Jews forgot this principle? How does it manifest itself today among Abraham’s descendants?

Just who are “Abraham’s descendants?” [Galatians 3:29](#)

17 About whom was Paul referring when he refers to Abraham’s belief in God “who gives life to the dead?” [Hint: [Hebrews 11:19](#)]

18-21 Why did God wait until Abraham was 100+ and Sarah’s womb was “good as dead?”

20 Is Paul’s description of Abraham’s faith **exaggerated** here? Ishmael/Hagar. “Did not waver?”

22 Why was righteousness credited to Abraham?

1. Did not _____ in unbelief.
2. _____ strong in faith.
3. Gave glory _____ .
4. He was fully _____ that God would

do what He had _____.

23 For whom was Abraham’s righteousness accredited?

For _____ and _____.

24 Why was Jesus delivered over to His enemies?

24 Why was Jesus raised?