

Romans 4:1-25

Lesson Six

The conclusion of the study thus far has been we are all condemned in sin and have a great need for God's Righteousness. The Gentiles are guilty; the Jews are guilty; all are guilty before God! We have looked at all this guilt only to show us our need for God's Righteousness and to contrast Righteousness and Condemnation. We have established that our lives as Christians are only by God's grace. The life of Christ living in and through us ~ that is the hope of glory!

DAY ONE:

1. As we get into **Romans 4**, note that it represents an illustration of the truth proclaimed in **chapter 3**. What was one truth that stood out from last week's lesson or overview?

2. How do we as Christians uphold the law?
 - a. Look up the following verses and comment.
 - 1) **Hebrews 10:14-18:**

 - 2) **Galatians 2:19-21:**

3. Spend some time in prayer, and read **Romans chapter 4**.

4. How does Paul say that we are justified (accounted righteous), according to chapter 4? Fill in the following chart with your answers.

Vs	Romans 4:1-8	Vs	Romans 4:9-17	Vs	Romans 4:18-25

5. Who does Paul use to illustrate Righteousness?
 - a.

 - b.

DAY TWO:

1. What are some instances in which *Abraham* believed God?
 - a. **Genesis 15:1-6:**

 - b. **Genesis 22:1-18:**

2. Read the background of David from **2 Samuel 11:2** through **2 Samuel 12:13**.

3. How does the following verse show that God imputes righteousness apart from works as it says in **Romans 4:6**?
 - a. **Psalm 32:**

 - b. **Can you think of any others?**

4. God knew before time began that David would sin, nevertheless how was David described in **1 Samuel 13:14**?

DAY THREE: **Romans 4:1-8**

1. The Jews gloried in Abraham; they considered him to be one of the greatest saints! It must have been a great shock to the Jews for Paul to say that Abraham had nothing in the flesh, but was justified by simple faith, like any common sinner! It was God who made the promise; it was God who fulfilled the promise, and all Abraham did was take God at His word! Abraham did nothing ~ he simply believed and it was accounted to him as righteousness! Who is it that you consider great today? Stop and think about it. Who is working in each and every one of us as believers?
 - a. According to **Isaiah 42:8**, Who alone is to get the glory?

2. What did Abraham have to boast about?
 - a. What in our flesh is there to boast about?

3. Paul calls Abraham his father. He is reminding his readers that he himself is a Jew. If you study the life of Paul, you will see that Paul had the most to boast about. Look up **Philippians 3:3-10** and comment.

4. The ultimate downfall of Adam and Eve was their desire for greater knowledge (Genesis 3:1-6). The Jews thought that their righteousness came from what they knew about God, as sometimes we do today. Be sure you are not basing your righteousness on what you know about God or the memory verses you have memorized. My prayer is that as you search the Scriptures you desire a more intimate relationship with Jesus! A greater understanding of who He is! A heart knowledge! What do the following verses say about this subject?
 - a. **John 5:39-40:**
 - b. **Ephesians 3:19:**
 - c. **1 Corinthians 8:1-3:**

5. Who are we to seek when searching the Scriptures? **John 14:26**

6. Read **Galatians 3:5-16**.
 - a. Who are the sons of Abraham according to **verse 7**?
 - b. How does the blessing of Abraham come upon us according to **verse 14**?

7. In **Romans 4:4-5** we see the principle of man working and receiving wages that are due. Each of us is affected by this principle in our lives for our physical sustenance. This principle sometimes carries over in to our relationship with God. Does this principle differ in our relationship with God? How can we apply this to our lives?
 - a) According to Romans 4: 4, if we were to work at our salvation (and sanctification), what would it be that we received?
 - b) What would it *not* be?
 - c) Who does God justify according to Romans 4:5?
 - d) Is there anyone that God cannot declare justified?
 - e) Think about the answers to the above questions. Allow them to penetrate your heart. How should this lead your thinking about others?

8. According to **Romans 4:6**, what one word describes the man or woman who has faith that is accounted as righteousness? _____

9. Fill in the blanks from **Romans 4:7-8**. "*Blessed are those whose _____ are _____, and whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.*"

10. Read **Leviticus, chapter 16**.
- What is a scapegoat?
 - How does this point to Jesus Christ?
 - Look up **Hebrews 13:11-13** and comment:
11. Note in **Romans 4:8** that Paul is speaking about David. Acknowledging the fact that David sinned in the sight of God, he says, ***“Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not reckon sin.”*** However, does that mean David did not pay consequences for his sin? What about us?
- List any consequences you can find that affected David’s life or those around him. Back your answer with Scripture references (**2 Samuel 11-12**).
 - What are some consequences you have paid for past sin in your life, even though you have been forgiven and God has ***“remembered your sin no more.”*** (You may want to share with your group if it will be a benefit to others).
12. If David could pronounce ***“blessed is the man whose sins were ‘covered,’”*** out of God’s sight in His mercy (though not removed), how much more should we rejoice, knowing that Christ has come to, once and for all, remove our sin! Look up **Hebrews 9:26** and write out a thank you note to Jesus!
13. Look up **Psalm 130:1-6**. Write it out and make it your prayer today.

Challenge: Do a word study on “wait”. What does it truly mean to wait on the Lord? Can you find any other Scriptures that refer to waiting on the Lord?

Wait:

*"I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
 I'm accepted, You were condemned
 I'm alive and well Your Spirit lives within me
 Because You died and rose again!"*

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DAY FOUR: Read Romans 4:9-17

1. Look up the word *blessed* using your study tools and write out the definition here:

2. According to **Romans 4:9**, are we *blessed* only because of our outward deeds? Why or why not?

3. In teaching the disciples, who did Jesus call blessed in **Matthew 5:3-11**? What are the blessings? Fill the answers in the appropriate column below: *Notice these are the "be" attitudes, not the "do" attitudes.*

Vs	Who is Blessed	Vs	The Blessing
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	

4. It is important to note that God counted Abraham righteous 14 or 15 years before circumcision was implemented. Circumcision was an outward sign or symbol, both to Abraham and to the world. To Abraham, that God was his God and to the world, that Abraham was separated from the world unto God, much like baptism is to Christians today. In **Romans 4:11** it says that Abraham *"received the sign of circumcision which was a seal of righteousness of faith."*
 - a. How and when are believers today sealed according **Ephesians 1:13-14**?
 - 1) How:
 - 2) When:

 - b. And according to **Colossians 2:10-15**:
 - 1) How:
 - 2) When:

- c. What are we sealed for according to **Ephesians 4:30**?
- 1) Use your study tools and do a word study on “*sealed*.” Think about the meaning of this precious promise!
 - a) What does this mean to your Christian walk?
5. What does **Romans 4:16** say that our faith is according to? _____.
6. According to the following verses where does our faith come from?
- a. **Romans 12:3**:
 - b. **Romans 10:17**:
7. Look up and read **Hebrews 6:11-12**.
- a. What does the writer of the Hebrews say is his desire?
 - b. What will happen to those who are diligent to seek Him?
8. What are some promises you can find in the Word of God? Be sure to back your promises with a Scripture.
- a. Share with your group some promises that God has been faithful to answer in your life to this point, backing them up with Scripture when possible:
9. Read **Joshua 4:5-7**.
- a. Why did the Lord tell Joshua to take these stones from the Jordan?
 - b. Do you have “stones of remembrance” in your life to share with your children?
 - c. How do these “stones of remembrance” help build your faith when you are going through a rough time in your life? Share this with your group to encourage others.

DAY FIVE: Read Romans 4:16-25

1. As way of review from lesson one, define the following words:
 - a. *Faith*:

b. *Hope:*

“Faith makes the ways of God pleasant and admirable, but unbelief makes them heavy and hard.”

“Faith will comfort in the midst of fears, but unbelief causeth fears in the midst of comforts.”

*“Faith Bringeth us near to God when we are far from Him,
but unbelief puts us far from God when we are near to Him.”* **John Bunyan**

2. Note how old Abraham and Sarah were at the time of the fulfillment of God’s promise. This clearly shows the great faith that Abraham had, knowing that the promise was a physical impossibility. Why do you think God waited so long to fulfill His promise to Abraham?

a. Have you given up on God, having your faith waiver because of a time frame? Look up **2 Peter 3:8-9**. How does this help?

b. Often, God waits, like He did with Abraham. What does **Isaiah 55:8-9** say about this?

“There were many trials to his (Abraham’s) faith, the essence of the difficulty, however, always being to ‘look unto the promise of God’ alone, and not to circumstances, or to the impossibility, according to the flesh, of the promises being fulfilled.”

William Newell

3. From **Romans 4:19-21**, what are the four key phases of Abraham’s faith that accounted him righteous before God?

Romans 4:19	Romans 4:20a	Romans 4:20b	Romans 4:21

*“There comes a time when a man ceases from his own works,
hearing that Christ finished the work, paid the ransom, at the cross.
Then he rests! Such a soul believes, knowing himself to be a sinner and ungodly,
but he believes on God, just as he is, and knows he is welcome!”*

William Newell

4. Why was this section recorded in Scripture according to verses **23-24**?
 - a. What is the meaning of *imputed*?

5. Why was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ so important according to **Isaiah 53:5**?

6. Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important according to the following verses?
 - a. **Romans 4:25**:

 - b. **1 Corinthians 15:17**:

7. Look up **Philippians 3:10-11**. Meditate on what this means, and allow it to be your heart’s desire today!

*“Oh, I want to know You more, Deep within my soul I want to know You.
Oh, I want to know You; To feel Your heart, And know Your mind.
Looking in Your eyes, Stirs up within me cries that say,
I want to know You, Oh, I want to know You more”*

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