

## Study Questions – Romans 4:1-25

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

<sup>7</sup> “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN,  
AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

<sup>8</sup> “BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.”

**Rom. 4:9** Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” <sup>10</sup> How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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.

**Rom. 4:13** For 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. <sup>14</sup> For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; <sup>15</sup> for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

**Rom. 4:16** For 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, <sup>17</sup> (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. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> 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; <sup>20</sup> yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. <sup>22</sup> Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. <sup>23</sup> Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, <sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> *He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

\*(A)=Application (C)=Context (D)=Difficult (DOC)=Doctrine (O)=Opinion (PER)=Personal (PR)=Principle (P)=Prophecy

**1. What is the first question that Paul asks concerning Abraham? (4:1) (O) Why do you think that Paul begins this chapter with a discussion of the faith of Abraham?**

**(C) What do the following verses reveal about the person and faith of Abraham?**

**Gen 12:1-9**

**Gen 15:6**

**Gen 17:5**

**Exod 3:15**

**John 8:56-58**

**Acts 7:32**

**Heb 11:1-18**

**2. What would give Abraham reason to boast? Could he boast before God? (4:2)**

**3. What Old Testament verse does Paul use to demonstrate the justification of Abraham? What was the result of Abraham's belief in God? (4:3) (DOC) Explain the meaning of the phrase "credited to him as righteousness."**

**4. How is a wage credited to one who works? (4:4) (A) Describe the difference between a wage and a gift.**

**5. To whom is faith credited as righteousness? (4:5) How does David speak of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works? (4:6-8)**

**6. Upon whom will be the blessing spoken by David? On the circumcised or on the uncircumcised? When was faith credited to Abraham, while he was circumcised or uncircumcised? (4:9-10)**

**7. Why did Abraham receive the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised? (4:11)**

**8. To whom is Abraham the father of circumcision? (4:12) (A) In whose steps of faith are you following?**

**9. Was the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world through the Law or through the righteousness of faith? (4:13) Explain.**

**10. What would make faith void and nullify the promise? (4:14) Why? (4:15)**

**11. Why is the promise by faith? To whom is the promise guaranteed? Who is the father of us all? (4:16)**

**12. What had God promised to Abraham? (4:17, cf. Gen 17:5)? To whom does God give life and what does He call into being? (4:17)**

**13. For what purpose did Abraham believe in hope against hope? (4:18) (C) What had God promised in the Abrahamic Covenant concerning descendants?**

**Gen 12:2-3**

**Gen 15:5**

**Gen 17:5**

**14. How old was childless Abraham when he received the promise of offspring? What was the condition of Sarah's womb? (4:19)**

**15. Despite his age and the deadness of Sarah's womb, how did Abraham respond to the promise of God? (4:20-21) (A) What are you trusting God to do that would be impossible to accomplish in your flesh? Are you more prone to believe or doubt?**

**16. Why was it credited to Abraham as righteousness? (4:22)**

**17. For whose sake was it credited to Abraham? In Whom must we believe for our belief to be credited as righteousness? (4:23-24) Why was Jesus delivered over? Why was Jesus raised? (4:25)**

**18. What do you learn about God in Rom 4:1-25? How could you apply this truth to your life?**

**Write a prayer response to Rom 4:1-25:**