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ABRAHAM'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

APART FROM WORKS (Romans 4:1-8)

Paul demonstrates and defends his doctrine of justification by faith apart from the law by using Abraham as his example. He addressed this to the Jews who made it such a point that they were descended from Abraham, and this descent was the root of all their position of privilege. Abraham, humanly speaking, was the founder of the Jewish nation (Romans 4:1).

1. Paul, in Romans 4:3, quotes from Genesis 15:6 --  
*-- And he believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness.* According to Genesis 15:5, and Hebrews 11:9, 11, 17, what did Abraham believe? The P\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_

So Abraham believed the promises God had made to him. But Paul quickly explains in Romans 4:4 and 5, that the reward is not by works, but by grace and faith ---- faith in the One (Christ) who is the Justifier of the ungodly to save them from God's wrath.

Paul, then, in Romans 4:6-8 brings a quote from David out of Psalm 32:1 and 2 ----

*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*

We could put it this way ---- What happiness,

what joy! for those whose guilt has been forgiven!  
What relief! for those who have repented and confessed their sins and God has cleared their record!  
ABRAHAM'S RIGHTEOUSNESS APART FROM CIRCUMCISION (Romans 4:9-12)

1. Did the blessings come upon Abraham after the Circumcision or before the circumcision?  
(Romans 4:9,10)\_\_\_\_\_

The law was given 430 years after God's promise to Abraham. Abraham, when God counted his faith as righteousness, was a Gentile. Circumcision was a visible sign; a cutting of the flesh.

2. Describe the sign of circumcision as referred to in Romans 4:11. \_\_\_\_\_

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#### ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN (Romans 4:12-25)

1. (a) Of whom does Romans 4:12 say Abraham is the father? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Is Abraham our father also? (Romans 4:12)

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The Jews are Abraham's children according to the flesh; and his spiritual children too (as we are) if they walk in the steps of his faith.

The God to whom Abraham directed his faith is the God who gives life to the dead. Abraham's faith

was a resurrection faith, calling into being things which do not exist.

2. Knowing that no law makes provision for mercy and pardon if it be broken; --- then what does the law work? (Romans 4:15)\_\_\_\_\_

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It is clear, then, that God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was not because Abraham obeyed God's laws but because he trusted God to keep His promise. So if you still claim God's blessings go to those who are "good enough," then you are saying that God's promises to those who have faith are meaningless, and faith is foolish. But the fact of the matter is this: when we try to gain God's blessings and salvation by keeping His laws we always end up under His anger, for we always fail to keep them. The only way we can keep from breaking laws is not to have any to break! (Romans 4:13-15 LB)

This does not, though, give us a license to sin. True faith is always obedient.

Abraham believed that what God had promised, He was able to perform (Romans 4:18-21).

3. In Romans 4:25, For us:

Why was Jesus raised again? \_\_\_\_\_

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Therefore, being justified by faith, we have:

- (1) Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1,2)
- (2) Joy in tribulation (Romans 5:3-8)