

# Abraham – The Role Model of Faith

Sermon 10 in the Romans Series

## Romans 4:9-25

### I. Sola Fide for the Gentiles v. 9-12

#### 1. Abraham was Justified before Circumcision was instituted -- v. 9-10

Genesis 12:1-3, 7

Genesis 15:1-6 (v. 6 quoted by Paul in Rom. 4:3)

Genesis 17 – Circumcision becomes the sign of the covenant.

Two things marked the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews -- Circumcision and the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath.

4 requests were made by the Jewish council in Acts 15.

But the controversy in Acts 15 swirled around circumcision.

#### 2. Abraham is the Father of the Uncircumcised Faithful – v. 11-12

- 1) Circumcision as a sign and seal of the Abrahamic Covenant pointed to Abraham's future seed, Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 3:16** -- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

- 2) Circumcision had nothing to do with Abraham's justification.

To sum up: Salvation comes by faith – not by ceremony.

### II. Sola Fide Transcends the Law v. 13-15

The law does not provide eternal life for us.

Trust in the law makes the promise worthless.

Trust in the law is ultimately trust in ourselves.

### III. Sola Fide v. 16

Righteousness comes from God **Rom 1:17** -- For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Righteousness comes through Jesus Christ -- **Rom 3:22** -- Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Faith is the instrument God gives to receive Christ **Rom 4:5**

Justification must be kept absolutely separate from sanctification.

#### IV. The example of Abraham's Faith 17-25

1. He is the father of the faithful -- v. 16-17a

We must not think strictly Jewish when we say ABRAHAM.

He is the Father of all the faithful, -- of every race on earth.

2. His faith was in the God who raises the Dead -- v. 17b
3. He believed and had hope in spite of a hopeless situation – v. 18-19
4. His faith was given and strengthened by God – v. 20-21
5. Where faith is given, righteousness is imputed – v. 22
6. What Abraham means to us -- v. 23-25

The Old Testament is relevant in primarily three ways:

- 1) God justified then and justifies now BY FAITH.
- 2) The OT points us to Jesus Christ.
- 3) We can learn from the OT examples given.

**1 Cor 10:11** – Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Conclusion: