

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS, Lesson 24 Part 1, “OF FAITH....BY GRACE”

READ: ROM 4:1-16

A SURVEY OF THE OPERATION OF GRACE AND FAITH FROM ROMANS 4

As Paul moves from confronting his “unseen opponents” by question and answer (*along with a sufficient sprinkling of sarcasm*), he proceeds into more of an explanation of why *Salvation / Righteousness* is a result of “Faith” and NOT of the “Works” of human effort.

This is one of the most well-presented teachings of the Apostle Paul regarding the doctrines of Grace and Faith. He establishes the necessity of Grace as the “foundation for Faith” and contrasts these principles with Works and LAW. Although his main point of focus is salvation, he shows how these principles are necessary for receiving any of the promises that God has made.

ROMANS 4: 1-3

1) *What then shall we say that Abraham, our earthly forefather, has gained?*

- *Has gained... - “to find w/o seeking” - PerfAct - once found...the results continued...*
- *Something that was not... Then at a point in the past it became reality... AND the RESULTS of that event CONTINUE to the present... -*
 - *Geof was born March 11, 1950 - Aorist - the certain fact of my birth... it is completed /a reality...*
 - *Geof was born March 11, 1950 - Perfect Active - *It happened... AND the results of my birth CONTINUE...**

ROMANS, Lesson 24 Part 2, “OF FAITH....BY GRACE”

2) *For IF [1st Cond - as a fact] he WAS [held to be] righteous on the ground of his actions, he has something to boast of... BUT NOT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD*

- *Held to be... - not in Greek - added to try to answer question of “How could this be...” - NOT Needed*
- *IF he was righteous by his own actions... - There are all number of things in life in which we can “boast” about our works / actions / performance ... AND expect award / payment / honor*

➤ **BUT NOT** before God...

➤ **OUR wages are as filthy rags...**

ISA 64:4-6 For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him! ⁵ You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways. But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly. We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved? ⁶ We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

³⁾ For what says the **SCRIPTURE**? "And (Abraham) **believed GOD**, and **THIS** was placed to his credit **as righteousness**." (GEN 15:6) (Abraham was around **85 @ time**)

➤ **Believed** – not "**believed in**" – **AorAct** – settled condition (Pagans / Demons believe "**in**")

➤ **Was Reckoned** – "**Logizomai**" – **AorPass** – write to the account / marked as credit

- The basis for this word means to "**put together in one's mind / calculate so to reach a conclusion...**"
- As such, God "took note of Abraham's expression of FAITH and recorded the total as "Righteousness"

What did he "**Believe**" – See: GAL 3:8-16 [NLT]

GAL 3:8-9 What's more, **the SCRIPTURES looked forward to this time** when **GOD would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith**. **GOD proclaimed this good news to ABRAHAM long ago when he said**, "All nations will be blessed through you."

⁹ **So all who put their faith in CHRIST share the same blessing ABRAHAM received because of his faith**.

10-12 **But those who depend on THE LAW to make them right with God are under his curse, for the SCRIPTURES say**, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in GOD'S BOOK OF **THE LAW**." ¹¹ **So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep THE LAW**. For the **SCRIPTURES say**, "It is **through faith** that a righteous person has life." ¹² **This way of faith is very different from the way of LAW, which says**, "It is through obeying **THE LAW** that a person has life."

13-14 **But CHRIST has rescued us from the curse pronounced by THE LAW**. When he was hung on the cross, **he took upon himself THE CURSE for our wrongdoing**. For it is written in the **SCRIPTURES**, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." ¹⁴ **Through CHRIST JESUS, GOD has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to ABRAHAM, so that we who are believers might receive the promised HOLY SPIRIT through faith**.

16-18 **GOD gave the PROMISES to ABRAHAM and his child [SEED]**. And notice that the **SCRIPTURE doesn't say** "to his **children** [SEEDS]," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his **child** [SEED]" – and that, of course, means **CHRIST**. ¹⁷ **This is what I am trying to say: The agreement GOD made with ABRAHAM could not be canceled 430 years later when GOD gave THE LAW to MOSES. GOD would be breaking his PROMISE**.

¹⁸ For **IF** [1st Cond – as a fact] *the inheritance could be received by keeping THE LAW, THEN it would not be the result of accepting GOD'S PROMISE. BUT GOD graciously gave it to ABRAHAM as a PROMISE.*

- *That ALL the Nations would be Blessed through “The Promised Seed”*
- *That the Blessings of the Seed would come to the Nations by “faith”*
- *That the “SEED” (not seeds) WAS the Promised Messiah / Christ / Redeemer*
- *The PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL – (ROM 4:8) – GEN 12:3; 18:18; 22:18*
 - **“Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”**
 - **“ALL nations blessed in YOU” (Your Promised SEED) ...**
 - *After the “revelation of the Substitute for Isaac” – “IN You...”*
- **REDEMPTION** –
 - **GAL 3:13; 14** –
 - **IN 8:56** *“Abraham saw my Day and rejoiced in it...”* -
 - **JOB 19:25** - *Job knew of the promise of a “Redeemer” - ...For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth...*
- **MESSIAH** – **GAL 3:16** – **“Single”** descendant *through whom ALL would be included* –

GEN 12:7; 13:15

- *First of ISAAC* -
- *THEN of the Promised SEED / REDEEMER / MESSIAH / CHRIST* –