

# “Grace & Peace to You”

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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### ROMANS, Lesson 26 Part 1: “IT ALL DEPENDS ON FAITH”

ROM 4:16 **THAT IS WHY** it depends on faith, **IN ORDER THAT** the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring – not only to the adherent of **THE LAW** but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, *who is the father of us all...*

Here is clearly one of the most significant displays of God’s Sovereignty. He ALONE chose to make our Salvation / Righteousness a matter of “faith” and NOT “works.” Neither would it be a matter of HIS choice, for it can ONLY be obtained by “faith” NOT by assignment.

God’s Power... His Foreknowledge... His Immutability... His Mercy... and His Love are all directly involved in establishing that Salvation is HIS Grace... through OUR Faith.

READ: ROM 4:9-16

#### ROMANS 4:9–15

9) *Is this blessing* [righteousness by faith] *then* only for the circumcised [JEW] or also for the uncircumcised [GENTILE]

*For we say that* faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. (GEN 15:6)

10) *How then* was it counted to him? *Was it* before or after he had been circumcised?

*It was* NOT after, *but* before he was circumcised.

Abraham’s exact age when he was declared righteous (GEN. 15:6) is not stated (~85?).

But, when Hagar bore him Ishmael, he was 86 (GEN. 16:16).

After that, GOD instructed Abraham to perform the rite of circumcision on all his male descendants as a sign of GOD’s covenant with him; this was done when Abraham was 99 (GEN. 17:24).

Therefore, the circumcision of followed his justification by faith by more than 13 years.

11) *He received* the SIGN of circumcision as a SEAL of the righteousness that he HAD by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

➤ CIRCUMCISION was NEVER meant to be a “pledge” - to fulfill what was demanded... [THE LAW]

➤ It was a “Sign” to Abraham that he WAS in Covenant with ELOHIM... (AND to his offspring...)

➤ It was a “Seal” from ELOHIM that HE WOULD fulfill HIS Promise...

➤ In fact, Abraham's circumcision **Pre-Dates the Law** by **430yrs...**

The **purpose** [of God's pledge to Abraham] was **to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised** [it was **NEVER** to be about the "circumcision" ... but **the PROMISE**]

**SO THAT righteousness would be counted to them as well...**

- Abraham **BELIEVED** the **PROMISE...** "You shall be..."
- It was the **PROMISE** that made Him a "father" **NOT** the **circumcision...**
- It was the **PROMISE** that Abraham "believed" when he "was declared righteous"
- IT is **THE PROMISE** of "righteousness" that **WE BELIEVE...** and are "declared righteous"

12) **...and to make him the father of the circumcised** [inwardly]

**who are not merely circumcised** [outwardly]

**but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith** that our father Abraham had **before he was circumcised.**

13) For **the promise** to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world **did not come through THE LAW**

**...but through the righteousness of [that is the result of] faith.**

## **ROMANS, Lesson 26 Part 2: "IT ALL DEPENDS ON FAITH"**

14) For **if it is the adherents of THE LAW** who are to be the heirs, **faith is null, and the promise is void.**

- **Adherents** - Lit: "those who are **OF the Law...**" - They are fully "**under the power of**" **THE LAW** -
- **Faith is Null...** - **Kenog** - **Empty** of any effect - Faith would be **removed** from being involved in **the outcome...**
- **THE PROMISE is Void...** - **Katargeo** - God's **PROMISE** would be rendered "**useless / inactive / annulled...**" -

15) For **THE LAW brings wrath, but where there is no LAW there is no transgression.**

- **The LAW brings wrath...** - **ONLY** those who can perfectly **fulfill THE LAW** receive the Promise
  - **Since:** the demands **COULD NOT** be fulfilled...
  - **Therefore:** Death was the result...
  - **And SO...** NO Promise could be received...
- **NO LAW... NO Transgression...** - **NO LAW for Abraham** to "**adhere to / be under the power of...**"
  - The was **NO transgression to disqualify** Abraham from **THE PROMISE...**
  - It was a matter of **FAITH** only...

- He BELIEVED... He was Made Righteous...

## ROMANS 4:16–17

16) **THAT IS WHY** it depends on faith, IN ORDER THAT the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring – not only to the adherent of THE LAW but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all...

I love the opening phrase of this sentence... Paul boldly declares the very heart of the Gospel...

➤ “That is why...” – GOD in His mercy, and Love made “righteousness” a matter of “Faith.”

- EPH 2:4 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us...

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- GAL 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision ... nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only [our] faith working through [God’s provision of] love.

- Counts... – ischuq – has the strength to overcome – the subject is “works that bring salvation” – Paul is declaring that “circumcision” DOES NOT have the power / ability to bring salvation.
- BUT [our] faith working through – Energeq - made productive through... - Faith DOES HAVE THE POWER to bring Salvation.
- BECAUSE [God’s provision of] love ... BECAUSE God in His Love has Chosen FAITH over WORKS... as the means to Salvation

➤ “DEPENDS ON faith...” – KJV: “Therefore it is OF faith, SO THAT it might be BY grace...” –

➤ “Guaranteed to ALL his offspring... to all who share the faith of Abraham...” THIS allows the “gift of righteousness” to be available (offered) to ALL ... NOT to those who can “adhere to the Law” but to EVERYONE who can BELIEVE...

- The ESV and others reflect the strength of the small word “of...” - it is a declaration of the ONLY means of access ... Righteousness CANNOT be received any OTHER way...
- God MADE the promise of righteousness dependent upon “faith” NOT “works”
  - We can’t ALL do the “work” ...
  - HA! NONE can DO the WORK...
- SO THAT it could offered by “grace” NOT by “fulfilling the Law”
- God’s Sovereign Choice was BY GRACE...Through FAITH...
- Guaranteed... – Bebaios – that which is FIRM, steadfast, no potential of change... - trusting in “our works” offers NO stability – NO confidence – “was it enough / what about tomorrow / what if I fail / or forget something?”