

Student copy Summer Quarter 2021 Unit II: Faith and Salvation

Seeking Assurance Lesson 7 – July 18, 2021

Devotional Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6

Background Scripture: Romans 4 Print Passage Romans 4: 1-12

Key verse- Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Romans 4:3b

NIV

Central Truth: Believers are counted as righteous by God through faith.

Objectives: As a result of this study, participants will 1) examine justification by faith and not works in the life of Abraham 2) examine their own lives for evidence of a faith walk with God 3) Commit to leave a legacy of faith for family and others

Lesson 7 Seeking Assurance – Believers are counted as righteous by God through faith.

There are people today that believe that doing good works can get them into Heaven. What do you believe? True or false. That is a big FALSE.

Faith not works IS the essential ingredient in salvation.

Biblical Content:

This lesson comes from the book Romans with the context coming from Paul's discussion about faith versus works in Romans 3: 27 – 4:28.

Main characters are Abraham and David.

Rhetorical Question: How do we know that Abraham believed God; in what ways did he demonstrate his faith?

Abraham's faith was demonstrated by his actions.

Gen 12: 1-5 His Call

Gen 15: 1-6The promise

Gen. 17 1-11; 24-27. The circumcision

The second prominent character was David - a descendant of Abraham and the second King of Israel. Despite David's short comings and he was considered as Israel's most beloved and revered King. He was referred to as a man after God's own heart. I Sam 13: 14.

Key words:

Believed: trusted or relied on, had faith in

Grace – unmerited kindness, favor. Grace is mercy extended by God. It is by grace through faith that we are saved. Eph. 2: 8-9

Justification – justified- shown to be righteous, declared righteous. We are justified by believing and trusting God and accepting the atoning death of Jesus Christ as our replacement for sin. God justifies the believer through faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior. It is a free gift of God and based on faith in God and not works,

Righteousness – justice or; being morally right; We are not righteous in and of ourselves. Believers have been declared righteous by faith because of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Rhetorical Question: Are you willing to make leaps of faith and entrust yourself to God?

Question 1: What are some of the most common reasons people don't take these leaps of faith and entrust themselves to God and His promises?

Activity 1: List an area in your life right now that you need to take a leap of faith and trust God. **Faith walk Card**

Section 1: Father of the Faith Romans 4: 1-3

Paul was writing to Christian Jews in Rome about righteousness by faith in the life of Abraham. The Jews placed great value on the fact that Abraham was the Father and founder of the nation of Israel. Paul presents a clear discussion of faith as the only path to righteousness and the foundation of God's new everlasting covenant with His people.

Paul examines the role of faith versus works in the life of Abraham.

Belief is not just a stating a set of facts, it is entrusting yourself to God, which Abraham illustrated continually when he put himself and the lives of his family into God's hands and in obedience followed where God sent him.

Rhetorical Question: Are you willing to put your faith in God's hands?

Question 2: In life's twists and turns, ups and down, is your faith still grounded in God's faithfulness? How so? Explain

Question 3: Why is it beneficial that God does not justify believers as righteous based on spiritual knowledge, length or church membership, longevity of belief or some other variable?

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Section II Facts of the Faith

By grace we are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Vs 4 – 5 Workers are not paid because of grace but because they have earned their wages. Many Jews had that work for salvation mind set.

To be justified by God can never be the result of our works, for we have too many debts in the form of sins, if we really earned what we deserve based on our works, we would all remain dead in our sins Eph. 2: 1-3; Colossians 2: 13-14

Vs 7-8 Psalm 32: 1 says that when God forgives and covers transgressions and sin, He credits the sinner as righteous, not counting the sin against that person.

Section III Footsteps of the Faith

Vs 9-10

Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised...?

Traditionally and historically, the Jews gloried in circumcision and the law.

Abraham was declared righteous when he was uncircumcised and before the law was given.

The conclusion is obvious: circumcision had nothing to do with his justification. It was Abraham's faith, not circumcision that made him eligible to receive the blessing of righteousness.

The ritual of circumcision, without faith does not make anyone righteous. Much in the same way that baptism does not make anyone righteous or saved.

Outward obedience to God's rules and regulations does not make a person righteous. Only one's faith and God's grace can result in being declared

righteous. Following His commands is a sign of our faith, without faith, the signs are meaningless.

Activity 2: Reflection: What is your legacy of faith? What are you leaving behind as an example for your family and others to follow? Does your family have a legacy of faith? If not consider being that model of faith for your family.

Activity 3: Faith in God involves trusting in the promises of God. Complete a promise pamphlet as a reminder of the promises you have in God by faith.

In conclusion,

Without a circumcised heart or without a heart that completely relies on God, it is impossible to please God or to achieve righteousness before Him.

Our works- offerings, acts of service, church attendance, etc cannot earn us a place in heaven.

Jesus Christ freely paid the debt we owed for sin- a debt we could not pay.

Salvation and eternal life are not blessings we can earn; rather they are gifts from God. We cannot do enough good deeds or church works to make ourselves acceptable before God.

How far will you allow your faith to take you? Do your actions show that your trust in God can overcome doubts and allow you to be obedient to Him?

Does your faith lead you to trust your children/grandchildren to God, no matter the circumstances? Does it guide us to worship God, not money, and act according to His Word?

Faith requires us to live every day in trust of God and His plan.