

The Faith of Abraham—Salvation without Works, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 4.
- B. Men have always been taught that salvation is bought on the installment plan.
- C. Paul teaches that salvation is bought once for all.
- D. Abraham becomes the classic model of salvation by grace.
 - 1. He would show the eternal truth of righteousness through grace by faith.
 - 2. Abraham is the supreme example of faith.
 - 3. Abraham gives Paul's theology flesh.
- E. Abraham's life is an example of saving faith in three ways.
- F. The rabbis incorrectly taught that Abraham was made right with God by works.

II. He was justified by faith not works.

- A. Abraham appropriated nothing by his natural unaided power. From God's viewpoint he had no reason to boast. (Ephesians 2)
- B. Paul points to Scripture to prove his point. (Genesis 15:6)
- C. Abraham believed God. (Galatians, Hebrews 11:8)
 - 1. His faith was a patient faith.
 - 2. His faith was great. He believed that God would raise his son Isaac from the dead.
- D. God declares the believer righteousness. He infuses in him the divine life and legally declares him right.
- E. God is able to do this because of the cross. God credited our sin to Christ's account. (Isaiah 53:4)
- F. This righteousness is everlasting. (Daniel 9)

III. He was justified by grace not law.

IV. He was justified by divine effort not human effort.

Application Questions:

1. What did the rabbis teach about Abraham that was false? How does this sound like much modern religion?

2. Why is Abraham's justification so important to Christians?

3. What does it mean to be legally declared right by God? How does this take place?
