



1. The Example of Abraham - Let's see how Justified by faith works in a life. (Jewish forefather) - Paul is saying; I am teaching you how this works by showing one of your own.
    1. Abraham cannot boast before God- What do we have to boast about? To the Jew-there was boasting in their law keeping, or in their goodness in comparison to the Gentiles (the world), Paul boils it down- He might have had some things to boast about down here..but not before God.
    2. What does the Bible say? - He believed God, and it was counted unto him as righteousness. "Abraham believed God [trusted God, banked on God's free mercy, looked away from his hopeless, ungodly self to God's grace] and that faith was credited to him as righteousness." DG
  2. Who can be in?
    1. God justifies the ungodly.- God grants faith to undeserving sinners. "Blessed is" - be careful not to make faith a work to boast about Galatians 3:6-9[6] just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?[7] Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. [8] And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." [9] So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)
    2. The circumcised and the uncircumcised- again Abraham is the example-notice the order of events.
      - Abraham trusted God's promise to send a redeemer who would justify.
      - Then Abraham took on the mark of God's people. Abraham is the literal father of a nation, but he is also a spiritual founding father of the faithful.
    3. Those who like Abraham, have righteousness counted unto them by Faith - those who are numbered as part of God's people must be regenerate. (Born again) Abraham is "Father of" notes a relational connection among God's people- an identity  
"Faith is not just what I assent to; it is also about whom I belong to. Faith is about family, a Christ shaped, Spirit filled, and God centered family... Faith is not a privatized affair but is a genuine family event. God does not save us and then assign us a number until it is time to go to heaven one individual at a time. Rather, God saves us and puts us into his family for the purpose of sharing in the family business of worship and mission... our sense of identity, purpose, security and worth is bound up with belonging. The church is where that identity, purpose, security and sense of worth are formed. It is this sense of belonging that enables us to flourish as individuals and even as whole communities." Michael Bird
  3. Grace is a gift.
    1. Lawless deeds forgiven
    2. Divine accounting v8, 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 -
- How then shall we live?
1. Boasting excluded- The Bible says the only thing we have to boast of is knowing Christ.
  2. Get Baptized. - the act (circumcision/ baptism) is not what saves, however it is important for God that his people be noted as his people. - church-inspect and expect evidence of the new birth- be careful who you number among God's people.
  3. Be a pop up book of God's grace- Is the grace at work in you, on display through you? Do you "believe God" that you can be forgiven by faith? How is that on display in your life?
  4. Has God's righteousness been counted unto you as well? - The other three questions help discern the answer to this one.
  5. What other application of this text do you see?