

True Children of Abraham Believe
Justification by Faith

Galatians 3:6 - 9

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Abraham's example: Abraham believed
God

Galatians 3:6a (HCSB)

Just as Abraham believed God . . .

- > The Greek adverb translated "just as" can indicate giving a Biblical example
- > NIV – "*Consider Abraham: he believed God*"
- > Abraham is mentioned 19 times in Paul's letters
- > Abraham is a model of faith
- > Faith in God's Messianic promises = blessing

Genesis 15 cited: Abraham believes; God
makes a unilateral covenant with Abraham

Galatians 3:6 (HCSB)

Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness,

- > Gen. 15:6; "Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness."
- > Genesis 15:9-20 describes the cutting of covenant

Believers are sons of Abraham

Galatians 3:7 (HCSB)

then understand that those who have faith are Abraham's sons.

- "Understand" is emphatic in the Greek or "Know"!
- The false teachers demanded circumcision and other acts of obedience to the law of Moses to achieve the status: "sons of Abraham"
- Paul rebukes the theology of the Judaizers

That only believers are sons of Abraham is disputed in John 8:30-59

Galatians 3:7b (HCSB)

those who have faith are Abraham's sons.

John 8:33 (NASB)

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

The Scriptures preached the gospel to Abraham

Galatians 3:8 (NASB)

The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you."

- This this personification attributes two actions to the Scriptures: 1) foreseeing 2) preaching
- This is from Genesis 12:3 and Genesis 18:18

All with Abraham's faith are Abraham's blessed sons and daughters

Galatians 3:9 (HCSB)

So those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith

- > This is a logical conclusion from Scripture
- > Since Abraham was reckoned justified while uncircumcised, Gentiles with faith are too

Implications and Applications

- > God's work of salvation is through His initiative and by faith alone
- > We must trust Christ alone through the gospel as the means of God's blessing of salvation
- > Scripture alone is God speaking authoritatively and inerrantly

Paul proves faith alone through Scripture

Romans 4:3-5 (NASB)

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

We must trust Christ alone through the gospel as the means of God's blessing of salvation

Acts 4, 12 (NASB)

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

1Peter 3, 18a (NASB)

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God,

Scripture alone is God speaking authoritatively and inerrantly

2Timothy 3:15-17 (NASB)

from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 (NASB)

'The Lord bless you, and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'
