

II. The Heart of the Gospel: Justification by Faith (1:18-4:25)

A. The Universal Problem of Sin (1:18-3:20)

B. The Remedy for Sin: Justification by Faith (3:21-4:25)

1. Justification and the Righteousness of God (3:21-26)
 2. Justification and Faith: “By Faith Alone” (3:27-4:25)
 - a) “By Faith Alone”: Summary Statement (3:27-31)
 - b) “By Faith Alone”: The Pattern of Abraham (4:1-25)
 - (1) Faith apart from Works (4:1-8)
 - (2) Faith apart from Circumcision (4:9-12)
 - Blessing of justification is not for circumcised Jews only.
 - (3) Faith apart from the Law (4:13-16)
 - (a) Content of the promise
 - (b) Recipients of the promise
- Circumcision signifies and confirms the status – but is empty if there be no accompanying reality of a righteous status (justification) granted by faith alone.
 - Abraham’s justification being prior to his circumcision – allows him to be father of Gentiles (“all who believe without being circumcised”) (v. 11b)
 - Abraham’s circumcision allows him to be father of Jewish believers (the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of [Abraham’s] faith) (v. 12)

Schedule

- Next week: Dan Radke will teach.
- The following week, we will finish Romans chapter 5.

Previous Lessons

- Previous lesson notes are available online:
<https://www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school>

Credits

- Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:
 - *The Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
 - *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
 - *Teaching Romans, Volume One: Unlocking Romans 1-8 for the Bible Teacher* by Christopher Ash [Christian Focus, 2009]

(c) Fulfillment of the promise

“Law and promise belong to different categories of thought, which are incompatible. Law-language (‘you shall’) demands our obedience but promise-language (‘I will’) demands our faith. What God said to Abraham was not ‘Obey this law and I will bless you,’ but ‘I will bless you; believe my promise.’” ~ J. Stott

(4) Faith apart from Sight (4:17-22)

(5) Conclusion: Abraham’s Faith and the Christian (4:23-25)

“...the condition of us all is the same with that of Abraham. All things around us are in opposition to the promises of God: He promises immortality; we are surrounded with mortality and corruption: he declares that he counts us just; we are covered with sins: He testifies that he is propitious and kind to us; outward judgments threaten his wrath.” ~ J. Calvin

TRANSITION to chapters 5-8

Chiasm:

- A Suffering with assurance of future glory (5:1-11)
 - B The basis for assurance in the work of Christ (5:12-21)
 - C Slavery to sin (6:1-23)
 - C’ The weakness of law (7:1-25)
 - B’ The basis for assurance in the ministry of the Spirit (8:1-17)
- A’ Suffering with assurance of future glory (8:18-39)

III. The Assurance Provided by the Gospel: The Hope of Salvation (5:1-8:39)

A. The Hope of Glory (5:1-21)

- 1. From Justification to Salvation: Blessings of Justification (5:1-11)
 - a) Peace and Hope in Christ (5:1-5)

- (1) The Process of Salvation: *what justification provides* (5:1-2)

“We have gone through a door (‘access’) from the realm where sin enslaves (3:9 ‘under sin’) to the realm where grace rules (6:14 ‘under grace’).” ~ C. Ash

How does it feel to live the Christian life in the present?

- (2) The Prospect of Salvation: *why we boast in suffering* (5:3-5)

“There is a circularity in this. Hope makes it possible to endure, and at the same time the process of enduring and the godly character it produces increases our hope by making us continually reflect on the future realities guaranteed by God.” ~ G. Osborne

- b) Love and Reconciliation in Christ (5:6-11)

- (1) The Demonstration of God’s Love: Christ crucified (5:6-8)

- (2) The Wonder of Salvation: *reconciliation to God* (5:9-11)