

**Text: Romans 4:1-4**

**Subject: The Example of Abraham**

**1. The Theme of Faith**

- a) This was carefully taught by the Apostle Paul
- b) The place of faith cannot be underestimated

**2. Four significant statements about Faith**

- a) "The just shall live by faith"      Romans 1:17
  - i) Paul cited Habakuk 2:4
  - ii) Faith was also a major truth taught by the prophets
- b) "The righteousness of God (revealed) through faith in Jesus Christ"      Romans 3:22
  - i) We understand God by faith
  - ii) We understand God's righteousness by faith
- c) God is the "Justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" Romans 3:26
  - i) God is the Divine Justifier
  - ii) He justifies everyone who has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- d) "We conclude that a man is justified by faith"      Romans 3:28
  - i) The conclusion was obvious to the Apostle Paul
  - ii) Justification cannot be earned
  - iii) No one can be justified by the deeds of the Law
  - iv) A person is justified by faith

**THE EXAMPLE OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM**

*<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?*

*<sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.*

<sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

<sup>4</sup> Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

*Romans 4:1-4*

1. Abraham is honoured as the father of the nation of Israel
2. His example is of great significance
3. Was Abraham justified by his works?
  - a) If he was justified by his works
  - b) Then he has something to boast about
4. The Scriptures were very clear concerning his justification
  - a) “Abraham believed God”
    - i) He found faith in God
    - ii) He trusted the LORD
  - b) “It was accounted to him for righteousness”
    - i) That means, Abraham was “justified by faith”
    - ii) God accounted to him “righteousness”
    - iii) Righteousness was imputed to him by God
5. If Righteousness (Justification) is obtained by works
  - a) If Righteousness are wages of work
  - b) Then Justification is to be seen as a debt owed to Abraham
  - c) But this was not how Abraham was justified before God

#### **THE LESSONS WE MUST PONDER OVER CAREFULLY**

1. Justification
  - a) This is “imputed righteousness”
  - b) God is the Justifier

- c) He justifies a person
  - i) By His grace
  - ii) Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

## 2. Abraham

- a) He is honoured as the father of the Jews
- b) He was justified because of his faith in God
- c) He was not justified by his works

## 3. Understanding of our Justification

- a) Thanks to God for His grace and mercy
- b) Thank God for the Lord Jesus Christ who came to be our Saviour
- c) Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we stand Justified before God
- d) The righteousness of the Lord Jesus is imputed to us
- e) God is our Justifier
- f) Our challenge is to understand Faith better and to live by it