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## **The Father of Us All**

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**Romans 4:1-25** <sup>1</sup>What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, has discovered? <sup>2</sup>If Abraham was indeed justified by works, he had something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now the wages of the worker are not credited as a gift, but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup>However, to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. <sup>6</sup>And David speaks likewise of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are they whose lawless acts are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup>Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” <sup>9</sup>Is this blessing only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. <sup>10</sup>In what context was it credited? Was it after his circumcision, or before? It was not after, but before. <sup>11</sup>And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but are not circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. <sup>12</sup>And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. <sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world was not given through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup>For if those who live by the law are heirs, faith is useless and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup>because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law, there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may rest on grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup>As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the presence of God, in whom he believed, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist. <sup>18</sup>Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup>Without weakening in his faith, he acknowledged the decrepitness of his body (since he was about a hundred years old) and the lifelessness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>Yet he did not waver through disbelief in the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised. <sup>22</sup>This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words “it was credited to him” were written not only for Abraham, <sup>24</sup>but also for us, to whom righteousness will be credited—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup>He was delivered over to death for our trespasses and was raised to life for our justification. (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage?

- A. Abraham is considered the father of all monotheistic religions. V. 1
- B. Abraham was credited righteousness because he merely took God at His word and acted upon it. V. 2-5
- C. King David proclaimed that forgiveness is a gift from God. It is not earned. V. 6-8
- D. Abraham did nothing to earn God's favor. It was a gift. V. 6-10
- E. Abraham is the forefather of the Gentiles who follow God as well. V. 11-13, 17
- F. No one is saved by trying to be good. If this was true, then Jesus did not need to die on the cross. V. 14-16
- G. Abraham believed that he would have heirs even if he and Sarah were too old to have children. V. 18-22
- H. We cannot earn our salvation, we cannot keep our salvation, and we cannot add to our salvation. V. 23-25

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. We need to have a healthy respect for Abraham.
- B. We need to believe God's word and act upon it.
- C. We need to rest in the security of what God has done for us.
- D. Our works flow out of our love and adoration for our Lord who has given our salvation to us.

**I Corinthians 6:9-20** <sup>9</sup>Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. <sup>12</sup>"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. <sup>13</sup>"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food," but God will destroy them both. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Or don't you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.