

Date: 10th January 2010

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Reading: Romans ch 4 v 13-25

Subject: Abraham's Righteousness through Faith.

These verses show Abraham's example of faith and the inheritance that he received through faith.

It shows faith in the promise of God that was given and faith rewarded when the promise of God was fulfilled.

Abraham's faith was tested in offering Isaac as a burnt offering (Gen 22). Every promise given to Abraham was brought together as a result of His obedience and faith.

We will rest on something because we know that God has said "When the fulness of time..." (Galatians 4:4). God has His timetable and God will never fail. The promise of a place God had prepared (John 14:1-6).

Abraham was told to go and leave his family behind. There was no outward substance to support his obedience. In the same way, we have the words of Christ, "In My Father's house there are many mansions" (John 14:3). We are called to rest on the promise that there is a place in heaven for us.

Men think "If I cannot see it I won't believe". In God's word it is completely the opposite because the "Things that are seen are temporal" (2 Cor 4:18).

God cannot fail.

When sin first came into the world in the garden of Eden, God gave the warning to the serpent that the seed of the woman, "shall bruise thy head ..." (Gen 3:15). Nothing could break the power of sin until the prophesy was fulfilled.

"God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin" (Rom 8:3), "sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal 4:4).

We may question the delay, but we must remember that "one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8)

God is over every circumstance. At the right time, He stepped into time. Every promise of God will be fulfilled in His own time. Everything promised is centred in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans 4 and James 2, we find that there were works that resulted from faith in God. They were not required for Salvation, but were evidence that he believed.

The character of man is seen in that God judged the world with the flood yet 100 years later men were building a tower and undermining God. "The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9). Man stands condemned in the sight of God. All the world is guilty before God (Rom 3:19).

At the cross the power of Satan was destroyed: "Through death might destroy Him that has the power of death... and deliver them who through fear of death were..subject to bondage" (Heb 2:14,15). It was our sins that kept us under the dominion of Satan. At Calvary sin was dealt with and the works of the devil were destroyed (1 John 3:8).

The challenge comes, "Who shall lay anything to God's elect?" (Rom 8:33). We be certain that we shall not be condemned because Christ lives to "make intercession for us" (Rom 8:34). We trust the One Who has triumphed. We can say with confidence: "I know that my redeemer liveth" (Job 19:25) and "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim 1:12)

Believing all that has been said will not deliver we need to act on what God has said.

For deliverance from the judgment of God and to know the righteousness of God we need to acknowledge we are a sinner condemned in the sight of God. Of ourselves we will never do anything. We need to call on Him to save us from our sins and put our lives in His hands. No longer is my life my own, my life belongs to Him.

“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom 6:23)

“if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

It is not just that you believe the truths, you have to turn and put your trust in Him. Put everything in His hands because “Neither is there Salvation in any other”(Act 4:12).

The summary is:-

In Christ - “no condemnation” (Romans 8:1)
Without Christ - “no hope” (Ephesians 2:12)