

Romans 4

Introduction

- A. Written by Paul from Corinth, winter of 56/57.
- B. To set out the Gospel that he preached (cf. Ga.1:8-9).
 - 1. All are sinners and stand condemned.
 - a. The wicked.
 - b. The moralist.
 - c. The Jew.
 - 2. Righteousness from God comes only by faith (1:17).
- C. In chapter 4, Paul appeals to Abraham's experience to teach us that righteousness comes by faith, not by law.

I. Justified by faith (1-17).

- A. Abraham believed God (Ge. 15:6) (1-8).
 - 1. Wages are an obligation.
 - 2. Righteousness is not earned; it comes by faith.
 - a. The example of David (cf. 2 Sa. 11-12; Ps.32).
 - b. David deserved death but got forgiveness.
- B. Not exclusively for the Jew (9-17).
 - 1. Jews were called "the circumcised" since Abraham.
 - 2. Abraham believed and was justified.
 - a. BEFORE circumcision.
 - b. BEFORE the Mosaic law.
 - 3. Abraham is the father of both Jew and Gentile.

C. Thus, salvation is for all through the power of God.

1. Gives life to the dead (A. 100; S. 90).
2. Things that are not come to pass.

II. The birth of a son (18-22).

A. Against all hope (Ge. 17).

1. Abraham and Sarah had tried the accustomed way.
2. The attempt to fulfill God's promise on his own led to disaster.

B. Did not waver.

C. Became fully persuaded that God could do what he promised.

III. The lesson for us today (23-25).

A. We also come to righteousness by faith.

B. God is still able to do what he has promised.

1. His own son died for our sins.
2. He was given life for our justification.