

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #6: The Example of Abraham

INTRODUCTION

Why is it difficult to keep hope alive when you face repeated setbacks or failures?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 4

*Note: Like Paul, who wrote this epistle to Rome, Abraham was sovereignly and directly chosen by God. Neither Abraham nor Paul was searching for God when they were divinely called and commissioned. Abraham had probably never heard of the true God, whereas Paul knew a great deal about Him. Abraham was seemingly content with his idolatrous paganism, and Paul was content with his traditional, but false, Judaism.*¹

1. How were Old Testament saints, such as Abraham and David, justified? vv. 1-8.
2. What is the difference between a wage and a gift? v. 4 **Eph 2:8-9**
3. What difference does it make that salvation is a gift instead of a wage? If it is a gift, why don't more people accept it?
4. Some people in Paul's day taught that unless a person was circumcised he had no hope of being saved. **Acts 15:1** How does Abraham's experience refute this idea? vv. 9-12
5. Why was circumcision such an important part of Judaism during Christ's time? **Phil 3:5**
6. What other kinds of false ideas do people have about what is required for salvation?
7. God promised that Abraham and his offspring would inherit the world. In what way is Abraham a spiritual father to us? vv. 13-17.
8. What difference does it make whether the promise to Abraham and his offspring is fulfilled by law or grace? What if Paul had given in to issue of circumcision? **Acts 15:5; Gal 6:12**
9. How does Abraham illustrate our own hopeless predicament as non-Christians and the solution provided in Jesus Christ? vv. 18-25.
10. What situations are you currently facing that require faith in the God of creation and resurrection?

APPLICATION

Pray that you will truly accept God's love without the need for performance or ritual.

“Matthew Henry put it like this: “In Christ's death He paid our debt; in His resurrection, He took out our acquittance.” God justifies those who believe in the death and resurrection of Christ. How wonderful this is! Have you gone that far with God? Do you believe Him?”

Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee Vol IV, p. 673

In the mid-sixteenth century the Council of Trent issued a statement that declared, “If anyone denies that by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ which is conferred in Baptism, the guilt of original sin is remitted; or even asserts that the whole of that which has the true and proper nature of sin is not taken away ... let him be anathema” (p. 354)²

^{1 2} MacArthur, John: *Romans*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1996, c1991, c1994, S. 235; S. 250