

Romans 4 Listening Guide

Chapter 4:1-3

1. If Paul had established for his readers, that salvation is through faith in Christ and left it at that point, for many in his audience that would not have been enough.
2. It's too _____. There has got to be something that I have to do before God can be pleased with me.
3. Abraham becomes a poster-child for how you are _____.
4. What did Abraham, our Patriarch, discover on this topic of salvation?
5. If Abraham had been justified by his _____ then he would have been famous for that _____.
6. But he had _____ to boast about.
7. Abraham received a _____ of righteousness from God on the basis that he _____ God, and it – his faith – was _____ to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6

8. God appears to him and makes a _____. (A nonsensical, impossible kind of promise in light of what they saw in their bodies at that moment.)
9. On the basis of that statement Abraham heard it and took it to heart in such a way that he had _____ that it was true.
10. He started to adopt the name Abraham, which means _____ of a _____.
11. He believed he would have that promise fulfilled.
12. Abraham is declared _____ the same way that we are today. By _____ in God's _____.
13. To the reader... take note of the fact that God _____ faith as righteousness.
14. **Reckoned** means an _____ of something that is not earned.
15. God did not _____ righteousness to Abraham on the basis of what Abraham did to _____ it.

16. Righteousness was _____ to Abraham.

17. **Credit** means regarded or supposed or assigned.

18. This proves that righteousness is _____ to the ungodly.

19. What saved the people who lived prior to Christ?

20. God delivers a promise through His word. Through faith in that promise we are credited with righteousness. The _____ of the promise will vary.

21. The object of our faith is God's _____.

22. Faith is ultimately in the _____ of the One who promised. (His power to do as He said and His faithfulness to keep His word.)

23. How is God just when He justifies the ungodly?

24. Because there is a ransom paid which makes possible the _____ that _____ produces.

25. For the New Testament believer...what is the content of the promise which saves you – full revelation has now been made possible.

26. Now the faith is directed to the _____ that makes faith possible.

Hebrews 11:1

27. Faith *itself* doesn't depend on a _____ content. It is defined in scripture not by the _____ but by our _____ in the One who is faithful to keep His _____.

28. When did Abraham live relative to the law? _____ the law.

Vs. 6

29. The _____ of God are upon the man whom God _____ with righteousness apart from works. (Even after the law came.)

Vs. 9

30. Abraham's act (on the covenant of circumcision) was evidence...of his willingness to...follow God's word. But that event happened _____ God had already said, "Your _____ has made you righteous".

31. The first Jew born of the promise was _____.
Abraham is the _____ of all.

32. At the moment of (the declaration of righteousness) he is a righteous

_____.
33. He is our Father of _____.

Vs. 12

34. He can be considered the Father of Faith for the _____ who believe because he set the example of what that is – to _____ and be _____ righteous while still a Gentile.

35. And in his modeling of circumcision and a walk of faith subsequently, he becomes a model for all in the _____ culture.

36. Abraham here is an example of the fact that _____ saves you not your works and he's that example for _____ sides of the equation.

Vs. 14

37. If God had ever intended that _____ would be a mechanism that if we kept them it would please Him... then any _____ of salvation by _____ would have been _____.

38. The whole notion of what _____ provides is nullified by any system of _____ that's brought alongside it.

That's good news!

End of Chapter 4, verse 17

39. On one hand he's talking about Abraham and Sarai. On a spiritual level He's saying that God is the One who gives _____ to the spiritually _____.

40. In that dead state (a person's heart) is not capable of resurrecting itself. It can not reach a point on its own of understanding the message and receiving it. It requires that God calls into being that which _____ exist, meaning their _____.

41. Abraham was chosen...because his very life situation is emblematic of how spiritually every new believer must come into being.

42. God must step into a _____ life, and through a _____, create the resurrection of _____ spiritually, and then that results in a declaration of righteousness. All of it done by _____ all of it is a credit none of it is a function of _____.

Psalm 51, verse 5

43. The testimony of every believer – we're _____ into sin.

Vs. 6, 10

44. That is...a synopsis of the life of every believer.

45. Start in _____.

46. Appeal to God for a _____ heart.

The message that David gives is the same message we all have.

47. A rule can only have one effect – that there would be _____; that there would be violation and as a result of violation there would be consequences.

48. If there had never been a law there could never have been violation because the entire relationship would have been based on grace.

49. God effectively _____ the law so that the only thing our righteousness was dependant on was His _____.

Vs. 16

50. He had to use _____ in a promise...because if it depended on the law how could a _____ be saved?

Vs. 18

51. This is what saving faith requires; in hope against _____, he _____ . If you claim a saving faith in Christianity, you can not have Plan B. There is no other _____.

52. Secondly, saving faith is based on a complete unwavering _____ that God is capable of delivering on His _____. That we accept the future outcome of our _____ into glory as a _____ even now.

53. If there is not a confidence in His _____ there's not a _____ in the promise.

54. Finally, Abraham's life experiences were recorded precisely for our _____. You and I now see how this works...that our righteousness is credited on the same basis, on our _____. Now the content of the promise is fixed on the redeemer. The content and Jesus are now one and the same.

Vs. 24

55. What I did for Jesus, I'll do for you. If you accept His _____ on your behalf, I'm prepared to _____ you just as I raised Him. Your proof that I can do that is that I did it for Him.

56. Our faith must be

- a. Hope against hope, with no back up plan.

- b. Must be unwavering because of our confidence in His power to fulfill His promise.
- c. The content of the promise must be that we will see the same outcome because we accept His payment.

Vs. 25

57. Jesus was the One who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised **because of** our justification. The literal sense is that He was raised **in view of** our justification.

58. The raising of Christ proves His power over _____, and therefore gives confidence concerning our justification. The raising reassures us of God's power to keep His _____.

Verse by Verse Ministry
A Study of the Book of Romans
Leader's Guide – 4

Overview-

Last week we spent a good deal of time reading about and discussing some of the examples of faith from Hebrews 11. We purposely skipped Paul's primary model, Father Abraham, and that's where we want to focus our attention this week. We've pieced out Abraham's story in past weeks for other purposes, but this week we will put it all together so that we can see

how Abraham's story affects our lives as New Testament believers, and Gentiles.

Discussion Topics and Questions

1. To begin today's lesson, recall one story from last week that demonstrated faith. Which came first, the faith in God, or the action? This is the idea that Abraham wants to convey to the still-skeptical Jew through Abraham's illustration.

2. Read Genesis 12:1-4.

3. What is God's primary promise to Abram in verse 2?

4. How old is Abram at this time (vs. 4)?

5. Read Genesis 15:1-6.

6. What is Abram's question and solution in verses 2 and 3? Why do you think he makes this proposal to God? How is this something we often do with God in our own circumstances?

7. In verse 4, what is the Lord's response to Abram's suggestion?

8. Verse 6 is the result of what happens in verse 5. Explain what Abram saw, what his response was, and how God reacted in turn. Why was Abram's faith in this promise remarkable? What did he *not* consider when he decided to believe?

9. Now read Genesis 17:1, 15-17, 21

10. How old is Abram now – how many years have passed since God's first promise?

11. Have Abram (now Abraham) and Sarah yet conceived the promised child?

12. Have you noticed that God's revelation of the promise has come progressively? He did not give Abram the whole roadmap from the very beginning but a little bit at a time. God's word to Abram in Genesis 12 was to "go", and the promise was that as he went God would show him *where* to go.

13. How is Abram's faith in the promise of a child much the same as this first faith when he left Ur?

14. What makes this example of progressive revelation, and Abraham's response, a good one for us to remember and apply to our own lives?

15. Now look back in Genesis 17 to verses 9-14. You've read this before but take careful note of the timing. As Pastor Armstrong taught and as Paul points out, did God credit Abraham with righteousness before the command of circumcision or after?

16. Explain, in light of all you know from last week and now from Abraham's story, how this proves that we are justified by our faith and not by our works (or requirements of the law). Which came first, the faith in God, or the action required?

17. Read Romans 4:9-11

18. Who are these verses describing?

19. Read Galatians 3:1-10.

20. Who are the children of Abraham? Make it personal.

21. What is the contrast made in verses 9 and 10? Fill in the blanks here; those who have _____ are blessed, and those who rely on observing the law are _____.

22. Explain what this means. (Leader note...Be sure that the group understands that based on all that you've learned about the law thus far, that this verse does not mean that God has cursed them, but that in comparison to the law all men fail and so are condemned by the law.)

23. God had said that through Abraham all nations would be blessed. That includes the Gentile nations because Abraham is the Father of all who believe. What does it mean to be *blessed*?

24. In Hebrew (Old Testament) the word is a verb not an adjective. It is an action done, not a description of a state of being. The word means, *to buckle at the knees, to be reverent and submissive*. The Greek (New Testament) equivalent means *to be approved by testing, to speak words of divine favor*. You can picture this as a knight kneeling before the king to *receive* his "blessing". He kneels submissively and prepares to be approved and have words of favor spoke over him.

25. How does this description remind you of what you learned about justification and righteousness? (Leader note...remind the group that **justification** is being *just as if you had never sinned*, and **righteousness** is being *just as you ought to be* in God's eyes.)

26. Continue on in Galatians 3 to verse 13-14.
27. How was the curse of the law removed?
28. So that what "blessing" might come to the Gentiles?
29. Pick up at Galatians 3:25-29
30. What makes us sons of God?
31. If we belong to Christ then what two things can we claim according to verse 29?
32. What promise is being referred to here?
33. In Romans 4:7-8 Paul quotes David, the Psalmist. Read this excerpt of Psalm 32 and explain now, in light of all that you know, how the man is "blessed", how his sins are "covered" and why God does not count his sins against him. With whom does this work rest, with the man or with God?
34. Finally today let's look at our last example of Abraham's faith.
35. Read Genesis 21:1-5, and then 22:1-19. Before we have any discussion about this, let's read Hebrews 11:17-19 so that we have the whole counsel of the word.
36. Why did God's request of Abraham back in Genesis 22 fly in the face of everything Abraham believed?
37. In what did Abraham trust as he acted in faith?
38. How does this further demonstrate the principles we've been discussing these past few weeks? How is this a good parallel to the example of the chair we talked about a couple of weeks ago?

Summary

We can see from our discussion today that Paul's point is perfectly clear; Abraham was declared to be righteous simply because he believed God enough to do what God said. You must first believe before you can do. When we believe that all we know about the gospel is true, then we are credited with the same righteousness as Abraham, and by faith we are made sons of God and heirs to His promises.