

Romans 4:1-25

What kind of Credit do you have?

³ *What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

Why is Abraham called our father? And what does that have to do with us in the 21st century?

Any Jew or Gentile who is a born again Christian is _____ from Abraham. In fact the three greatest monotheistic religions in the world all trace their _____ back to Abraham; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Abraham is certainly not to be worshiped but he is a powerful example of faith in God and How God keeps his promises to those who are faithful to him. Think about it. Literally over 2 billion people in the world when you include Christians and Moslems think of Abraham as their spiritual forefather. God did keep his promise to Abraham to be the father of many nations. Genesis 17:1-8

God promised Abraham he would be the _____ of many nations and he and his descendants would possess the land of _____ if he would walk _____ and be _____.

So what does circumcision have to do with it? God told Abraham that a sign of the covenant who was making with God would be that he, his household and his descendants from thereafter would be circumcised.

It is the _____ physical sign of the _____ spiritual _____ between God and Abraham (this includes his descendants the Jews and us who have been grafted in through Jesus) that we will be made righteous and be justified in the sight of God.

The Jews were especially proud of circumcision and thought it separated them as distinct people from all other people in the world. Every male child was to be circumcised on the 8th day after his birth.

Important highlights concerning circumcision

- Abraham circumcises his sons and it becomes symbol of his faithfulness. Then Isaac and Jacob..
- Sons of Jacob told Shechem. they could not marry into their family until they were circumcised... Genesis 34:13-29
- People had to be circumcised to participate in Passover (Leviticus 12:2-3).
- God almost killed Moses for not being circumcised Exodus 4:24-25). (Exodus 12:44, 48).
- The heart even in old testament it was called circumcision of the heart Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6 Difference between Jews and other races David even used it as an insult against Goliath(Judges 14:3; 15:18; 1 Samuel 14:6; 17:26, 36; 31:4; 2 Samuel 1:20; 1 Chronicles 10:4).
- Greeks King Antichus declares circumcision illegal Jews died in order to keep it
- Jesus never said it was wrong
- It had been around for over 2,000 years when Paul discussed it.
- Jews followers of Christ wanted the new gentile believers to be circumcised
- Requiring Paul to define have it should be used and who needs to be circumcised.

So what does all this mean about Abraham and circumcision for us today? How does that relate to me right now?

2thing wonderful and frightening spiritual truths:

#1 Without Christ you are working on your own merit so God will judge you by your own righteousness.

If so you will always be _____ and _____.

Sometimes you will feel superior to others because you feel you are better or more righteous. Other times you will feel defeated and dirty because you cannot measure up to the "law". You never feel good enough, so you want to quit. The fact is in a way you are correct, nothing you do without Christ is really _____ to you as righteousness. Instead your debts are piling up and you will never be able to clean up your sins. You can never _____ the books. Psalms 32:1-2

#2 If you are living by _____ in Jesus then what ever good you do is _____ to you as righteousness.

Paul makes it clear it is neither good nor bad. It is now our faith in _____ that counts.

Abraham was _____ to have righteousness not because of the things he did; If that were so he could have boasted in is own righteousness. Instead he was credited with righteousness because of his faith in God. He obeyed God and performed obedient acts because of his faith. The principle is this: the faith comes _____, then the obedient act _____ the faith. Remember Paul points out very clear that Abraham was credited with righteousness before he was circumcised. So again it was not what he did it was his faith in God's mercy to keep promises. Paul ultimately points out in the last few verses of chapter 4 that just as Abraham grew strong in faith that God would keep his promises, we too grow strong in faith as we believe in the resurrected Jesus to keep his promises to redeem us and save us from our sins. This same promise is not only for forgiveness of sin but _____ to live a victorious life now!

Answers: descended, heritage , father, Canaan, faithfully, blameless, inward, outward, covenant, credit ,frustrated , disappointed, credited, balance, faith, credited, Jesus, credited , first, follows, power