



Salvation Illustrated
Romans 4:1-25
#5 in a series on Romans
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Theme: **With the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness.**

Abraham's righteousness did not come through his own efforts.

1. It did not come through his works. (1-8; see also 3:27-28; Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 32:1-2)
2. It did not come through circumcision.
(9-12; see also Genesis 15:1-6 with 17:1-27; 1 Corinthians 9:2)
3. It did not come through the law. (13-17)

Abraham's righteousness came through faith.

1. The object of his faith. (5, 17, 21, 24, 25)
2. The quality of his faith. (18-21; see also Matthew 13:5-7, 20-22)
3. The availability of his faith. (12, 16, 22-25)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Righteousness, or salvation, is not received because of the good things we do or the religious things done to us. It is God's gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Abraham and David were not justified by their works, and no one else has been or will be. Read 4:1-25, and then think with God about your salvation, thanking Him for His great grace.

Tuesday. Just as circumcision did not save Abraham but was a sign of being made righteous and then a sign for Israel of being a member of the people who were in a covenant relationship with God, so a Christian heritage does not make one a Christian. If you were blessed to grow up in a Christian home, thank God for that! At the same time, never become *comfortable* because of the heritage. Never become more concerned about the expectations other Christians place on you than living an authentic life of faith in Christ.

Wednesday. Righteousness come by God's grace through faith in the God of the Bible. Check the references on the outline point "The object of his faith" to review some basic characteristics of God. As you read your Bible for the rest of the month make a record of the descriptions of God that you find.

Thursday. Abraham's faith was a carefully considered faith (19), able to believe the impossible (18) and one which kept growing (19-21). Even if it is "three steps forward and two steps back" at times, is your faith like this? What is the most striking point God has brought to your attention from this look at Romans 4?

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at 5:1-11 where Paul writes about some of the results or blessings from righteousness or salvation. Read and think through this section as you prepare for our time of worship together.