

I. Jesus stunned the Jews by pointing to Himself instead of Moses. John 8:31-59. Note that the Gospel of Christ is right here...

- A. Sin is the real killer of humanity. 34 (Rom.1-3)
 - 1. We need freedom from its power and penalty
- B. Freedom is found only in Christ. 31
 - 1. The truth of the gospel will set you free.
- C. Abraham is crucial, but it is his faith, not his bloodline that saves.
 - 1. This is an argument about who is actually related to Abraham. The faithless Jews aren't related to Abraham spiritually and Jesus is the only real connection to Abraham.
- D. Why is Abraham important? Because God will save the whole world through his seed. Gen.12:1-3
 - 1. Abrahamic Covenant is how God will save and re-build His World.
 - 2. Many Christians do not realize that it is their connection to Abraham, through faith in Christ (the seed), that brings them into the New Covenant and the re-creation of the universe under Christ Jesus. Abrahamic Faith is Faith in Christ.

II. Paul would have been one of those Jews that Jesus argued with!! But now the Word of Christ was dwelling in him!! The Gospel is Jesus. Paul announced it. Rom.1-3

- A. All humans are under sin. Greeks and Jews. Rom.1:16-3:21 (3:9)
- B. But any human can be justified, Greek or Jew, by the new righteousness that God gives as a gift. 3:21-30
- C. And this new gift of righteousness does not rely on Torah obedience. 3:28

III. But Paul is accused by his old classmates. Your gospel is wrong. 1:16-17.

- A. It's unbiblical. It overthrows the Mosaic Covenant (Torah).
 - 1. But this misreads the biblical evidence, says Paul. Rom.4 is his answer to this objection.
- B. And it's immoral. Grace and Faith will lead to unrepentant sin.
 - 1. More on this in Chapter 6-7

IV. Paul's answer: It is biblical: Look at Abraham and David. Rom.4:1-12.

- A. Abraham was counted righteous by *faith alone*. 1-5. Gen.15:6
 - 1. God justifies ungodly people: like Abraham? (Josh.24:1-2)
 - 2. Gal.3:7-9; 23-29
- B. And so was David, by *faith alone*. 6-8. Ps.32:1-2
 - 1. God imputed righteousness to David *in spite of his works*.
 - 2. David repented, demonstrating real faith in God.
- C. In fact, Circumcision itself resulted from being counted righteous by *faith alone*. 9-12
 - 1. Abraham was a Gentile when he was called!
 - 2. He was circumcised 14 years later, at 99. Gen.17
- D. So that Abraham could become the father of anybody in the fallen world.
 - 1. (Acts 1:8; Matt.28:18-20; Gal.3:29)

V. Furthermore, The Promise to Abraham is acquired by Faith. Rom.4:13-25.

- A. Abraham simply trusted the promise from God. 13-15
 - 1. His righteousness was real, but it was faith-righteousness, not Torah righteousness.
- B. So that Faith would rest on Grace and be Secure. 16-17
 - 1. His offspring includes Gentiles.
 - 2. If justification came by any other way, then God would not get the glory for his grace!!!
- C. Especially when things look impossible. 18-21
 - 1. Hope against hope. A way of life...
 - 2. He did fail, but continued to trust.
- D. All So that we would put radical faith in Christ. 22-25
 - 1. Abraham's faith was counted to him as righteousness—just like our faith in Christ is.
 - 2. The whole Abraham story is to teach us that we are joined to God through his Seed by grace through faith

VI. Abraham's faith illustrates four truths we must absorb if we want to live free:

- A. If you marry a millionaire, you are a millionaire.
 - 1. We have the Righteousness of God Himself in Christ. Phil.3
 - a) This is the meaning of the word for “credit/reckon/count” in these passages.
 - 2. Whether you feel this or not is not the point.
 - 3. This is not blessing you have earned, yet, it is really yours now...
- B. If you believe a promise, you believe in the One who made it.
 - 1. Believing what the Person says, and acting on that reality as reality, is what the Bible means by faith. It is a knowledge category, a way of knowing.
 - 2. Jesus was always saying, Trust Me. (Jn.14:1-6)
 - 3. We can't say we belong to Christ if we don't actually trust Him with everything.
- C. If the One who promises is reliable, then you are secure. 16
 - 1. Certainty: Greek word = *firm, reliable, permanent, guaranteed*
 - 2. Security is the goal of the faith method of justification.
 - 3. Stop trying to figure out ways to be insecure in your faith. Jn.14:1-6
- D. If you start out in faith, the only way is forward—through the trials.
 - 1. Abraham struggled forward, growing strong in faith. Circumcision (Gen.17); Isaac (Gen.22)
 - 2. He failed in many ways, but never stopped trusting God and never “apostasized,” never went back to the “gods of his fathers.” (Josh 24:1-2)
 - 3. He failed “forward” by coming back to God's word and seeking to trust and obey.
 - 4. We never outgrow the need to trust God's promise over our response to it. If we reverse these (and it is our tendency to do this) we become legalists and burn ourselves out.