



Abraham's Faith (Part 1)

Romans 4:1-12

Something to Start Us Off

- What do you think is the most valuable thing you have even earned? What kind of work did you have to do in order to get it?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 4:1-12 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 4:3 Abraham believed God ... See Genesis 15:6.
- 4:7-8 Blessed are those whose ... See Psalm 32:1-2
- 4:10 before he was circumcised Circumcision is introduced some 13 or 14 years later, in Genesis 17.

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* The Greek word *logizomai* ("counted/credited/imputed") appears 11 times in Romans 4 alone! Paul borrows it straight from Genesis 15:6 to show righteousness isn't earned like wages (v. 4) but gifted freely to the "ungodly" who believe (v. 5).

* If you want to identify these places in English, look for forms of the word *count(ed)* in the ESV.

* In the NKJV, it might be *account(ed)*, *count(ed)*, or *impute(ed)*.

* See 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, & 11 in today's section. See also 4:22, 23, & 24.

Discussion Questions:

- Try to list some of the key differences between being justified by works and, as the Bible teaches, being justified by faith.
- Why do you think it is significant that tendency to boast is completely negated?
- In what way is Abraham "the father of all who believe," that is, of Christians – both the circumcised (Jews) and the uncircumcised (Gentiles)? (4:11)
- If there is any way you are tempted to "boast," or look at your own efforts/credentials as giving you some kind of credit before God, how should you view those things now?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 4:3 this week. These verses tell us that unworthy people (like us) can still be made right with God.