

## Romans 4:13-25 The Promise to Abraham and Justification by Faith

### **Text**

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; <sup>15</sup>for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>(as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. <sup>18</sup>In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; <sup>20</sup>yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup>and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. <sup>22</sup>Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. <sup>23</sup>Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, <sup>24</sup>but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

### **Key Points in the text**

- We can have full assurance in the promises of God in the gospel.
- God has shown that He does not break His promises.
- God's faithfulness is what is on display here not ours.

### **Text Study**

#### *The Promise of God: What God says, God does. Verses 13-17a*

**<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; <sup>15</sup>for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.**

**<sup>16</sup>For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>(as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you")**

Verse 13, restates the promise made to Abraham and also his descendants by God that they would be "Heirs of the world"

Verses 16-17a, in order to guarantee the promise made by God, it must be all based on faith, and not only to the Jew (those who are of the Law), but all who have been adopted into the family of God.

#### *The God of Promise: What God says, God does, because He can raise the dead. Verses 17b-22*

**<sup>17</sup>...in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. <sup>18</sup>In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be."**

**<sup>19</sup>Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; <sup>20</sup>yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup>and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. <sup>22</sup>Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.**

This section is not about Abraham's faithfulness, because we all know that during this time Abraham was not always faithful, that is how we got Ishmial, because Abraham doubted and figured he would take matters into his own hands. This section is about God making something out of nothing 'ex nihilo'.

God can take a person dead in their sins and make them the father of a nation and it does not matter how dead he was before he is alive now because of the power and faithfulness of Jesus imputed to him.

*How does this apply to us? Verses 23-25*

**<sup>23</sup>Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, <sup>24</sup>but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.**

In verse 23 all of this truth about Abraham gets applied to us

We are found righteous not because of Abraham's faith but because of the faithfulness of Jesus.

The birth of Isaac proved to Abraham and Sarah the faithfulness of God, the resurrection of Jesus proves to us that God's wrath was satisfied by the obedience of Jesus.

### **Application**

- We can have full assurance of our salvation because God is faithful and will always fulfill His promises.
- When feeling weak in faith turn your eyes to the faithfulness of Jesus.

### **Next Week's Lesson Prep/Preview**

Text: Romans 5:1-11

Focus: Peace and Hope Through Justification

Devotional: Luke 2

Preparation: Make note of the focus on Peace and Hope in Luke 2.