

Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008
Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

Mark Observations

Record Observations & Questions

- 1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham,
our forefather according to the flesh?
- 2 For if Abraham was justified by works,
he has something to boast about,
but not before God.
- 3 For what does the Scripture say?
“Abraham believed God,
and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

- 4 Now to the one who works,
his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.
- 5 And to the one who does not work
but trusts him who justifies the ungodly,
his faith is counted as righteousness,
- 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing
of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:
- 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;
8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

- 9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised,
or also for the uncircumcised?
We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.
- 10 How then was it counted to him?
Was it before or after he had been circumcised?
It was not after, but before he was circumcised.
- 11 He received the sign of circumcision
as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith
while he was still uncircumcised.
The purpose was to make him the father
of all who believe without being circumcised,
so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,
- 12 and to make him the father of the circumcised
who are not merely circumcised
but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham
had before he was circumcised.

- 13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not
come through the law
but through the righteousness of faith.
- 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs,
faith is null and the promise is void.
- 15 For the law brings wrath,
but where there is no law there is no transgression.

- 16 That is why it depends on faith,
in order that the promise may rest on grace
and be guaranteed to all his offspring
—not only to the adherent of the law
but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham,
who is the father of us all,
- 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”
—in the presence of the God in whom he believed,
who gives life to the dead

Look for words that are
Repeated
Alike
Different
Accentuated
Related

and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

- 18 In hope he believed against hope,
that he should become the father of many nations,
as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."
- 19 He did not weaken in faith
when he considered his own body,
which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old),
or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.
- 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God,
but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,
21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
22 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."
- 23 But the words "it was counted to him"
were not written for his sake alone,
24 but for ours also.
It will be counted to us
who believe in him
who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,
25 who was delivered up for our trespasses
and raised for our justification. (ESV)

Questions (Be sure to list the verse number for your answer to insure you are answering from this text.)



Think about it

What terms or concepts are repeated? Notice concepts that are compared or contrasted?
What does that tell you about the focus of the passage?

By what three things was Abraham not justified?

By what was Abraham justified? And why?

Paul uses the words “count”, “counts”, or “counted” eleven times in chapter 4. For each occurrence, identify the following:

To Whom Was It Counted	What Was Counted	What Was It Counted As
v. 3		
v. 4		
v. 5		
v. 6		
v. 8		
v. 9		
v.10		
v.11		
v.22		
v.23		
v.24		



What do we learn
About God

What is the primary attribute of God revealed in this passage? How should you respond to that kind of God?



Act on it

Application or Personal Challenge—What do you need to know or do this week?



Talk about it

Who can you share your insights with?