**ROMANS 3:21 – 4:25**

Expanded Outline

C. God’s Answer to Universal Need Set Forth (3:21 – 5:21)

1. Exposition of the new system: righteousness through faith (3:21 – 31)
   1. A description of this righteousness (3:21 – 22a)
   2. This righteousness needed by all, for all have sinned (3:22b – 23)
   3. Justification by grace made possible by the redemptive and propitiatory sacrifice of Christ Jesus (3:24 – 25a)
   4. This sacrifice explains why God was so lenient with “sins previously committed” (3:25b)
   5. In the death of Jesus we see the basis for God’s justice and our forgiveness (3:26)
   6. Conclusions drawn from the fact that righteousness is found only through the gospel of Jesus Christ (3:27 – 31)
      1. All boasting is excluded (3:27)
      2. This righteousness is entirely apart from works of the Law (3:28)
      3. Jew and Gentile are on the same footing; both must find acceptance with God on the same terms – by faith (3:29 – 30)
      4. Faith does not make the Law ineffective, rather it demonstrates the purpose and validity of the Law (3:31)
2. The new system illustrated and applied in Abraham (4:1 – 25)
   1. His justification was obtained only through faith, not by works (4:1 – 8)
      1. If Abraham was justified by works, he had a right to boast after his own flesh (4:1 – 2)
      2. The scripture (Genesis 15:6) says that Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness (4:3)
      3. If righteousness is obtained by works, then it is in payment of a debt and not by grace (4:4)
      4. For those who believe in God and do not depend on works, faith produces righteousness (4:5)
      5. David (Psalms 32:1 – 2) pronounced a blessing on those who were counted righteous (4:6 – 8)
   2. His justification did not depend upon circumcision, because he was declared just before his circumcision (4:9 – 12)
      1. Is the blessing for the circumcised only, or also for the uncircumcised? (4:9)
      2. When was Abraham’s faith reckoned for righteousness, in circumcision or uncircumcision? (4:10)
      3. Abraham received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness of faith which he had in uncircumcision that he might:
         1. Be the father of all the believers among the uncircumcised (4:11)
         2. Be the father of all the circumcised who walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham (4:12)
   3. The promise made to Abraham and his seed was a promise of faith, not through the law (4:13 – 25)
      1. This was true in order to include “all the nations” in the promise (4:13 – 17)
      2. In spite of discouraging circumstances, Abraham believed that God would bless him through his seed (4:18 – 22)
      3. The faith of Abraham was what God considered in declaring him righteous, and it is faith that will secure righteousness for us (4:23 – 25)

Questions on Romans 3:21 – 4:25

1. List the characteristics of the righteousness through faith given in Romans 3:21 – 22a.
2. What is necessary to obtain this righteousness of God?
3. Does God make any distinction between individuals or groups in the granting of His grace? Explain your answer.
4. How is our justification by grace made possible according to Romans 3:24 – 25?
5. What characteristics of God are seen in the sacrificial offering of Jesus?
6. Why is glorying or boasting in one’s righteousness excluded?
7. How is one justified according to Romans 3:28? Does this teach that obedience is not required?
8. How does salvation apart from the works of the Law show that God is the God of both Jews and Gentiles?
9. Does justification by faith nullify or make void the Law? What does it do?
10. Who serves as a perfect example of justification by faith in Romans 4?
11. According to Romans 4:3 and Genesis 15:6, what action of Abraham was reckoned/counted to him as righteousness?
12. What distinction is made between a reward (or payment) and a gift in Romans 4:4 – 5?
13. What did David say with regard to the forgiveness of sin in Psalms 32:1 – 2?
14. When was the faith of Abraham reckoned for righteousness? What is the significance of this?
15. Abraham received the sign of circumcision, a seal of his righteousness of faith, that he might be the father of whom?
16. On what basis was the promise made to Abraham and his seed? Why is this important?
17. Did God promise to make Abraham a father of many nations seem reasonable in human wisdom?
18. List the characteristics of Abraham’s faith as found in Romans 4:19 – 21.
19. How does Abraham’s faith and God’s response to it affect us?