



**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
LIBERTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Salvation: Why? and How?**

**Romans Chapters One to Five**

**Sermon 11**

**The Illustration of Justification by Faith,**

**Part I: The Salvation of Abraham**

**Romans 4:1-11A**

**Sunday, July 28, 2013**

**Study 11**

**QUOTE:** If there is any doctrine that the chief enemy of man and of God desires to undercut and distort, it is the doctrine of **salvation**. If Satan can cause confusion and error in regard to that doctrine, he has succeeded in keeping men in their sin and under divine judgment and condemnation, which the unredeemed will one day share with Satan and his demonic angels in the eternal torment of hell.

Every false religion of the world—whether a heretical branch of Christianity, a highly developed pagan religion, or primitive animism—is founded on some form of salvation by **works**. Without exception, they teach that, by one means or another, man can become right with deity by attaining righteousness in his own power.

The entire fourth chapter of Romans is devoted to Abraham, whom Paul uses as an illustration of the central biblical truth that man can become right with God only by faith in **response** to His grace, and never by works. *MacArthur New Testament Commentary*

**OVERVIEW:** Romans 4, The Salvation of Abraham 4:1-11A, The Seed of Abraham 4:11B-25

## I. The **Basis** of His Salvation (Rom. 4:1-5)

### A. The Illustration (Rom. 4:1-3)

#### 1. An Analogy (4:1; John 8:39)

**“As pertaining to the flesh”** – The Jews leaned heavily upon the fact that this great O.T. hero was their **forefather**. They said, “Look, here is a great man. He was great because he worked for God.” Paul is ready for their argument. lkw

#### 2. An **Argument** (4:2)

**QUOTE:** The Rabbis taught that **Abraham** had a **surplus** of merit from his works that was available to his descendants.

*Bible Knowledge Commentary*

### 3. An Answer (4:3; Gal. 3:8; Gen. 12:3; 15:6)

“Counted” – Gk., *logizomai*. *to keep records of commercial accounts, involving both debits and credits—‘to put into one’s account, to charge one’s account, to regard as an account.’ Louw and Nida*

**This verse is repeated 3X in the N.T. (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 3:6; Jam. 2:23)**

**QUOTE:** Genesis 15:6 provides an important note, but it does not pinpoint Abram’s conversion. That occurred years earlier when he left Ur. The Abrahamic Covenant did not give Abram redemption; it was a covenant made with Abram who had already believed and to whom righteousness had already been imputed. The Bible clearly teaches that in all ages imputed righteousness (i.e., salvation) comes by faith. *Bible Knowledge Commentary*

### B. The Instruction (Rom. 4:4-5)

**MAIN IDEA:** *Because the human race is completely unrighteous, the instigation for providing righteousness had to come from God. Holman N.T. Commentary*

#### 1. The Way of Works (4:4)

#### 2. The Way of Grace (4:5; 3:28)

**NOTE:** If we were to find the dividing line between what is given in debt and what is truly a gift, it would be works. Where there are works, there is an obligation. Where there are not works, the item given is a gift. How foolish we are to imagine God being found in debt to us! Lkw

## II. The Blessings of His Salvation (Rom. 4:6-11A)

### A. The Privileges (4:4-8)

#### 1. The Privilege Described (4:6; Psalm 32:1-2)

## 2. The Privilege **Detailed** (4:7-8)

### a. Iniquities Forgiven (4:7A)

**Iniquities** – Gk., *anomia*. Violations of the **law**.

**Forgiven** – Gk., *aphiemi*. To send away, **release**, let go.

### b. Sins Covered (4:7B)

**Sins** – Gk., *harmartia*. **Offences** against God.

**Covered** – Gk., *epikalupto*. To put a cover on, to **conceal**.

### c. Sin not imputed (4:8; Philem. 1:18-19; 1 Pet. 2:24)

**Impute** – Lay to the account of. See above.

**Sin** - Gk., *harmartia*. Offences against God.

## B. The Participants (Rom. 4:9-11A)

### 1. The **Opportunity** of Abraham's Salvation (4:9)

**QUOTE:** *Abraham was justified by faith as a **human** being, not as a Gentile or a Jew! This establishes faith as the standard for **all** human beings. Holman N.T. Commentary*

### 2. The **Order** of Abraham's Salvation (4:10-A; Gen. 15:4-6; Gen. 17:1, 24-25)

**QUOTE:** Therefore, if Abraham was 85 years old when declared righteous, justification occurred **[AT LEAST, SEE ABOVE]** **14** years before he was circumcised at age 99. *Holman N.T. Commentary*

**NOTE:** It would be centuries before the law would be given!

## CONCLUSION:

Three types of works:

1. The works men do in an effort to **please** God. (1 Sam. 15:22)
2. The works that men do in obedience to God's ordinances, but which may be done in a **fleshly** way. (circumcision, Lord's Supper, baptism) (Romans 2:26; Mt. 23:5; 7:22-23)
3. The works that, though they do not lead to salvation, they do naturally **flow** from it. (Eph. 2:8-10; James 2:18)