



Salvation: Why? and How?
Romans Chapters One to Five
Calvary Baptist Church

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The Illustration of Justification by Faith,
Part II: The Seed of Abraham
Romans 4:12-25
Sunday, September 1, 2013

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REVIEW FROM PART I

- 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)
 2. An **Argument** (4:2)
 3. An **Answer** (4:3; Gal. 3:8; Gen. 12:3; 15:6)
 - B. The Instruction (Rom. 4:4-5)
 1. The Way of Works (4:4)
 2. The Way of **Grace** (4:5; 3:28)
- 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)
 - b. Sins Covered (4:7B)
 - c. Sin not imputed (4:8; Philem. 1:18-19; 1 Pet. 2:24)
 - B. The Participants (Rom. 4:9-11A)
 1. The **Opportunity** of Abraham's Salvation (4:9)
 2. The **Order** of Abraham's Salvation (4:10-A; Gn. 15:4-6; Gn. 17:1, 24-25)

PART II: THE SEED OF ABRAHAM

- I. THE **PATTERN** OF FAITH (4:11-12)
 - A. FOR THE BELIEVING **GENTILE** (4:11)

QUOTE: A seal of the righteousness of the faith. *Sphragis* is old word for the seal placed on books ([Rev. 5:1](#)), for a signet-ring ([Rev. 7:2](#)), the stamp made by the seal ([2 Tim. 2:19](#)), that by which anything is confirmed ([1 Cor. 9:2](#)) as here. The circumcision did not convey the righteousness, but only gave **outward** confirmation. It came by faith and "the faith which he had while in uncircumcision." *Word Pictures in the New Testament.*

QUOTE: The word for *seal*, σφραγῖδα (*sphragida*), means "an engraved object used to make a mark denoting ownership, approval, or closure of something (normally done by pressing into heated wax and usually attached to a document or letter)." The seal was used to certify the genuineness of an agreement, usually the conclusion of a transaction in which ownership was transferred. Therefore, circumcision was the seal to prove what had taken place in Abraham's **heart** when he received God's approval. *Easy-To-Read Commentary Series*

B. FOR THE BELIEVING JEW (4:12; Luke 3:8)

WALK – *stoicheō*. To follow in the footsteps, a well-known military term. To march in **rank**. Rogers and Rogers, *Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*.

STEPS – *ichnos*. Footstep, track.

- Thus, Abraham laid down tracks of faith. The true son of Abraham will see these steps of faith and will line up and march in rank following these tracks of faith.

QUOTE: While the Jews believed they had received God's favor as His chosen people through their obedience to the law, Paul explained how this inheritance actually is born of faith and not of **race**, reaffirming his previous arguments that not all heirs of God are **Jewish** nor are all **Jews** heirs of God. Abraham and his descendants received God's promise not through strict adherence to the law but by their faith. This is the only way to receive God's approval. *Easy-To-Read Commentary Series*

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH (4:13-17)

A. THE SINGULARITY OF FAITH (4:13-15)

1. The Promise Not Based on the Law (4:13; Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18)

- It would be **centuries** after the promise of God and the faith of Abraham before the law would be given.

2. Righteousness Not Based on the Law (4:14-15)

a. The Law and Faith (4:14)

QUOTE: As Paul explained, if Jews could become heirs by obeying the Law, then faith has no value (*kekenōtai*, “it has been made empty”; cf. the noun *kenos*, “empty, without content,” in [1 Cor. 15:10, 58](#)). Also the promise is worthless (*katērgētai*, “has been made invalid”). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

b. The Law and its Purpose (4:15; Rom. 8:3; Gal. 2:19; Heb. 7:19)

TRANSGRESSION – *parabasis*. Stepping over the mark.
Linguistic Key

B. THE SCOPE OF FAITH (4:16-17; Acts 15:11; Titus 2:11; Lk. 19:10)

SURE – Solid, durable, valid. A legally guaranteed security.
Reliable, dependable, certain, sure. *LKGNT*

A person...

- does not have to begin to go to church before God will save him.
- does not have to get religious before God will accept him.
- does not have to be baptized or ritualized before God will forgive his sins.

What he *has to do* is believe God and believe God's promises.
When he bows in humble faith and believes ... immediately
God counts his faith as righteousness. *POSB*

NOTE: Let us never forget that, while we are the spiritual sons of Abraham by faith, and we receive the promises boldly, standing side by side with believing Jews, there are at the same time promises to Abraham that apply to Jews alone. One day, in the Millennium, God will fulfill promises to Jews and Gentiles at the same time. The Jews will finally enjoy the fulfillment of God's land promises to them. Gentiles (and N.T. believing Jews) will receive the fulfillment of God's promise to them that they would rule and reign with Christ! Lkw

III. THE PROVING OF FAITH (4:18-21)

A. THE PROMISE (4:18B, 20A; 21B)

- Faith is based upon one thing and one alone: the promise of God. Any other thing is foolishness and folly. But to take God at His word is not folly, it is faith!

B. THE PROBLEM (4:19B)

C. THE PERSUASION (4:18A, 19-21; Heb. 11:1; 2 Cor. 4:18; Ps. 37:5; Prov. 3:5; Is. 26:3; Jer. 17:7; Heb. 11:11; Deut. 10:12-13)

STAGGERED – *diakrino*. To separate, divide into parts, to be divided in one's own mind. LKGN

- Real faith claims the promise of God!

NOTE: We humans consider this world to be the reality and the spiritual realm to be the unreality. We have it reversed. Long after the things of this world have gone up in flames, God, Heaven and the new earth will continue. (2 Cor. 4:18)

APPLY! When we demonstrate a trust in God, we bring glory to our God in the lives of others.

IV. THE PRIVILEGE OF FAITH (4:22-24A)

A. TO ABRAHAM (4:22)

B. TO ALL (4:23-24A)

V. THE PLACEMENT OF OUR FAITH (4:22B-25)

A. IN A PERSON (4:24B; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

- Our faith is in God, and that God is approached only through Christ.
- To believe is to cling to God's promise, to rely upon what Christ has done, to cast ourselves fully upon God.

B. IN A PROVISION (4:25; 1 Cor. 15:1-10)

CONCLUSION (Rom. 3:19-30)

MADE ALIVE THROUGH FAITH

1. Just as God made Sarah's dead womb alive... (Heb. 11:11)
2. Just as God made Abram alive... (Gen. 15:6)
3. Just as we are made alive in Christ... (1 Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:1,5)
4. One day, our dead body shall be made alive in the Resurrection!