

Romans 4 “A Promised Righteousness”

Romans 4:9-25

October 25, 2026

Romans 4:9-15

9 Is this blessing only for the circumcised, then? Or is it also for the uncircumcised? For we say, Faith was credited to Abraham for righteousness. 10 In what way, then, was it credited—while he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? It was not while he was circumcised, but uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while still uncircumcised. This was to make him the father of all who believe but are not circumcised, so that righteousness may be credited to them also. 12 And he became the father of the circumcised, who are not only circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith our father Abraham had while he was still uncircumcised.

13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 If those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made empty and the promise nullified, 15 because the law produces wrath. And where there is no law, there is no transgression.

Romans 4:4-5

4 Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness.

Circumcision was the seal of Abraham's belief not its source.

The law produces wrath not righteous people.

Romans 4:16-25

16 This is why the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace, to guarantee it to all the descendants—not only to the one who is of the law but also to the one who is of Abraham's faith. He 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, the one who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist. 18 He believed, hoping against hope, so that he became the father of many nations according to what had been spoken: So will your descendants be. 19 He

did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body to be already dead (since he was about a hundred years old) and also the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver in unbelief at God's promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 because he was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to do. 22 Therefore, it was credited to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was credited to him was not written for Abraham alone, 24 but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

A gift for all.

Romans 4:18

18 He believed, hoping against hope, so that he became the father of many nations according to what had been spoken: So will your descendants be.

A promise is only as good as the one who makes it.

Romans 4:23-25

23 Now it was credited to him was not written for Abraham alone, 24 but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

The resurrection is a faith producing event.

The resurrection marked God's acceptance of Jesus' payment.

"Beloved, the dying Christ has purchased justification, but the risen Christ will see that you we get it. The risen Christ has come to bring it to us, and herein we rest." - Charles Spurgeon

"When the devil throws our sins up to us and declares that we deserve death and hell, we ought to speak thus, "I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it? Does this mean that I shall be sentenced to eternal damnation? By no means. For I know the One who suffered and made satisfaction in my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, The son of God. Where he is, there I shall be also." - Martin Luther

The resurrection is the power behind our promised justification.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you ever received credit for someone else's work, maybe you were in a group and one person did all the work? Share a little about that experience.
- Romans 4:16 helps us understand that the promise of our righteous standing before God comes by faith for what reason?
- Discuss the idea that a promise is only as good as the one who makes it. Have you ever made a promise that you knew they couldn't keep?
- How is Paul strengthening our hope in God's promises by giving us the example of Abraham?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus give us confidence in our justification?
- What of Romans 4 has been helpful to your understanding of justification? Why is it an unearned gift? Why is it a promise believed by faith?