### Romans

## Chapter 4

1For example:  
  
Consider our fleshly ancestor AbraHam.  
  
2If [God] had called AbraHam ‘righteous’ because of the things that he did, [AbraHam] might have had a reason to boast [about himself]… And not to God.  
  
3What do the Scriptures say?  
  
 ‘AbraHam was counted as righteous... Because he believed in The God.’ [Genesis 15:6]  
  
4Remember that when a man works [for a living], his getting paid isn’t thought of as a kindness… It’s something that he’s owed!  
  
5However, those who don’t actually do anything –other than just believe in the One who calls the ungodly ones ‘righteous’— are still counted as righteous because of their faith!  
  
6Notice that David also spoke of how blest a man is if God has counted him as righteous despite [all the bad things] he’s done.  
  
[For he wrote]:  
  
 7‘Blest are those forgiven for their lawless ways  
 And those whose sins He’s covered…  
 8Blest are those in whom  
 He has found no sin!’  
 [Psalm 32:1-2, LXX]  
  
9So, doesn’t this ‘blessing’ apply to both the circumcised and the uncircumcised?  
  
Indeed, we’ve been saying that AbraHam was counted as righteous because of his faith... 10And just what was [AbraHam’s] situation when [God] thought of him that way?  
  
Was this before he was circumcised or after he was circumcised?  
  
It wasn’t after he was circumcised! It was while he was uncircumcised!  
  
11For the sign that he received (circumcision) was a seal of the righteousness that he demonstrated before he was circumcised!  
  
Yes, He became the Father of those who have faith while they’re still uncircumcised, so that they too can be counted as righteous.  
  
12He’s also the Father of the circumcised who aren’t just circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the same faith that our father AbraHam had prior to circumcision.  
  
  
13Indeed, AbraHam and his descendants weren’t given the promise of inheriting the world because of the [Jewish] Law, but because of their righteous faith!  
  
14For if [you could] become heirs through [obeying] the [Jewish] Law, then faith really has no value... And the promise [given to AbraHam] is worthless!  
  
15For the Law brings wrath... And where there’s no law, there’s nothing to break.  
  
16So, because we believe in [God’s] loving care, we must also believe that the promise applies to all who are [AbraHam’s] descendants... And not just those who are under the [Jewish] Law… But all those who have the same faith as AbraHam, and he’s the father of us all!  
  
17Just as it’s written:  
  
 ‘I’ve appointed you to be the father of many nations.’ [Genesis 17:5]  
  
He’s our father, standing before The God in whom he believed… The One who makes the dead alive and calls the things that aren’t and makes them exist.  
  
18So although [AbraHam] really didn’t have any reason for hope, he started to believe that he’d become the father of many nations – for he was told:  
  
 ‘They’ll be your offspring.’ [Genesis 15:5]  
  
19Even though his body was almost dead (since he was 100 years old), and the womb of SarAh was dead, this failed to weaken his faith – 20because it was promised to him by The God he trusted in!  
  
So his faith was strengthened by something that was unbelievable, and he glorified God!  
  
21For [AbraHam] was completely convinced that [God] could do whatever He promised. 22And this is why...  
  
 ‘It was counted to him as righteousness.’ [Genesis 15:6]  
  
23Now the words, ‘it was counted to him’ weren’t just written for his sake, 24but for the sake of everybody whom [God] thinks of in the same way today… Those who believe in the One who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead!  
  
25For after he’d been offered up for our errors, he was then raised... All so we can be counted as righteous too!