

Sunday, March 21/21

Text: Romans 3:27 - 4:12

He brought him outside and said, 'Look toward the heaven, and number the stars... So shall your offspring be.' And (Abraham) believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

- Genesis 15:5 - 6

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

- Psalm 32:1 - 2

What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

- Romans 4:3

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is gooder than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all.

- Frederick Buechner

- 1. Boasting in human achievement or righteousness by any other means (3:27 31)
- 2. Delusions of ever being able to earn God's favour or please Him by any other means (4:1-5)
- 3. Insecurity of sinning to the point of being rejected by God, falling outside His blessing (4:6-8)
- 4. Doubts of being accepted in the faith community that walks in the steps of Abraham (4:9 12)



# Open It

- 1. When have you escaped a penalty you were sure you were going to have to pay?
- 2. What are some religious acts and practices people perform in an attempt to please God?

#### **Explore It**

- 3. On what basis can a person brag about his or her righteousness? (3:27)
- 4. What was the main characteristic of Abraham's relationship with God? (4:1-3)
- 5. What was the purpose of circumcision in Abraham's life? (4:11)
- 6. What justifies a person in God's sight? (3:28)
- 7. How will Jews and Gentiles be judged by God? (3:29-30)
- 8. What is the relationship between having faith and observing the Law? (3:29-31)

### Get It

- 9. Why do some people object to the idea that God has offered forgiveness to every person, even the worst sinners?
- 10. Why is it impossible to be saved by following God's laws?
- 11. What customs and religious habits can give people a false sense of righteousness?
- 12. What is fair or unfair about the fact that all people, including very wicked people, can inherit God's promises by putting their faith in God?
- 13. How should our boasting and bragging about our relationship to God be different when we realize it is by faith alone?
- 14. What role, besides judge, is God playing in our lives?

- 15. In what areas are you still boasting about your own abilities? How can you submit those areas to God's control?
- 16. How can you pray this week to reaffirm your faith in God and not in works?
- 17. Do you evidence a genuine, justifying faith through the removal of boasting, delusions, insecurities and doubt, as shared in the message?



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He brought him outside and said, 'Look toward the heaven, and number the stars... So shall your offspring be.' And (Abraham) believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

- Genesis 15:5 - 6

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

- Psalm 32:1 - 2

What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

- Romans 4:3

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is gooder than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all.

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- 1. Boasting in human achievement or righteousness by any other means (3:27 31)
- 2. Delusions of ever being able to earn God's favour or please Him by any other means (4:1-5)
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He brought him outside and said, 'Look toward the heaven, and number the stars... So shall your offspring be.' And (Abraham) believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

- Genesis 15:5 - 6

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

- Psalm 32:1 - 2

What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

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Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is gooder than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all.

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- 1. Boasting in human achievement or righteousness by any other means (3:27 31)
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Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

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