

Lesson 7 – The Book of Romans

Last time we learned that from Chapter 12 of the Book of Genesis when God called Abram, that he was not a Jew. He later became a Jew, but when called he was not.

We also know that Abram had his name changed to Abraham in Genesis 17 when he was years older. The H was entered into Abram's name as it represents YHWH the name given to God, and his name included now the H (pronounced haah) Abrahaahm

It was also a name change for Sari, as God inserted the H into her name also and she went from Sari – to Saraha -haaah

The sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham was the sign of circumcise. He was justified years before when he believed God and left his home.

Abraham was 100 years old when he was circumcised. Sarah was 90 years old when God changed her name.-is it any wonder why Sarah laughed when she heard God say that Abraham would have a son by her?

We also discussed King David. He lived under the law, yet was saved not by his works but by his belief. Same as us.

So Abraham was “saved” before the law was established, and David was saved under the law.

Why is this important? Law represents legalism – you must be doing something in order to receive something from God. That is the Old Testament thinking. You do this, God will do that – The burden then becomes mine to start before He can work on my behalf.

Here again is where the church is missing it. Relationship with God is established through believing, not doing.

In **Chapter 4** of the Book, we have learned the following;

Since Justification is a gift, it cannot be earned by works – **verses 1-4**

Since Abraham was justified before he was circumcised – positional relationship with God- has nothing to do with circumcision– **verses 9-12.**

Abraham was justified centuries before the law was given to Moses, so justification is in no way related to the law. **Vs 13-17**

Abraham was justified because of faith in God, not because of his works – **vs 18-**

Just a side note here beloved, in verse **5 of Chapter 4**, we have Paul giving the argument that “to him that **does not work**, but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is **accounted** (accounting term that means that something has been placed into his account – period) for righteousness.”

The idea is that you and I must continue to NOT WORK –He who keeps on **Not working** – is the point i.e., do nothing for Him to improve our position with Him. All we need to do is believe that we have righteousness with Him and never set about to try and improve on that.

When we work, we expect to be paid in some way for our effort. Not so with Him. He gives this to us – WITHOUT any input on our part. Also take the example of someone giving you a gift and you then want to turn around and pay for it. How does the giver of that gift respond? Not only does the gift seem to lose its value, but the giver of the gift is slapped in the face and would rightly be upset that you were trying to somehow pay him back for the gift.

If I give you something that you don't deserve, that is a gift. If for some reason you are trying to earn it, you are mucking up the whole issue. It is no longer a gift, but rather wages for what you have done. .

We must remember that Abraham was saved (justified) before he was circumcised (an act under the law) and is now the father of all who believe.

The promise given to Abraham that he would be the **heir** of the world was given to him not through the law of Moses, but through faith in his believing God.

So what Paul is saying to the Jewish believers in Rome is turning their world upside down.

If you read **Acts 15** and you see the challenge offered in the first church to the Jews, and you hear Peter giving testimony as to what happened to him at the house of Cornelius, what he is saying is that they received the gift of the Holy Spirit by believing and that alone.

Here the church that was filled with new Jewish converts were discussing the gentile need for relationship with God and the question was, well do they need to keep the commandments and be circumcised as we have been in order to have this relationship with God? After all, that is what happened to us.

Peter turned the whole thing around. Rather than make the gentiles coming into the church **like us**, we need to be **like them**

Acts 15:11 – look at it – Peter is talking and saying here – “but we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, WE SHALL BE SAVED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY.

That is what Paul is saying here in Romans 4 – the promise given to Abraham or his seed that he would be the heir of the world- was not given through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

If the Jews could come into relationship with the Lord Jesus through the law of Moses, on any law for that matter, then faith has no value. *It is void, without content* – **verse 14 of Romans 4**

Rituals are not the means of our relationship. They are just a testament as to what has happened to us. In other words, you do not need to be Baptized to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus. You do not need to speak in tongues in order to have a relationship with Jesus. You do not need to be circumcised to have a relationship with Jesus. It is a sign and a testimony of your relationship with Jesus. Water baptism same thing. They are important testimony as to your relationship, but are not a requirement for that relationship

Sacraments can destroy confidence in your relationship. i.e. if you do not do this or have that, it can lead to your losing confidence in your relationship. There is nothing wrong with rituals unless they tear down the foundation principles of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

If we come to God on the basis of the law, the only consequence can be **His wrath.**

Are we communicating?

Now in Chapter 5 – We begin to see the main reason why this issue must be settled in the mind of the believer.

Chapter 5 starts out with the word “therefore” and as you have heard me say countless times since I first heard it from my mentor – Keith Lamb_ it is important to understand what the word “therefore” is there for. The way to look at this word is to know that it is there for us *to conclude from previous verses.*

So what are the previous verses to conclude for the believer? Romans 5;1 we have **peace with God.**

For us to know without a doubt that we have **peace with** God. The term “peace with” takes on the understanding that there is a face to face intimacy with God and an understanding with one another. The understanding is that NOW we have this peace with God. Not will have, but possess right now.

You and I are not responsible for having peace, in the sense of making it, with God. Oh I wish you could hear me on this. Rather we are to enjoy the fact that we now have that peace with Him. Our part here beloved is to “believe” it, to have faith in the fact of;

Look again at **John 14: 27**. Jesus is talking and states: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Why? – end of verse **27** “that you let NOT your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

“Don’t let my heart be troubled, are you out of your mind – we cry. Do you not know what has happened to me? Are you unaware of my surroundings? Does anyone even care what I’m going through? We cry out with David in Psalm 3 “*many are they that trouble me, many are they that rise up against me, many are they that say of me, there is no help from me in God*”

Our response must be as King David said **in verse 3- But thou O Lord are a shield for me, my glory and the one who lifts my head.**

Is it any wonder why God has such a special place in his heart for this man?

As Paul put it in **Philippians 4:7** – that which passes all understanding. You know when you have it beloved, and when you don’t. When you don’t, lean not on your own understanding, trust that He is on the scene, and nothing is coming to you or yours that catches Him by surprise. Oh, and “all things happening are happening for your benefit...

This has nothing to do with the message in the Book of Romans, but I was at a meeting last night and heard some rather discouraging things.

This brother is giving up his leadership role in the Lutheran Church because he can no longer subscribe to their teachings. I asked him what he was referring to and he blurted out that they do not believe in the rapture of the church. Further, they have no concept of the rewards given at the judgment seat of Christ, the 1,000 year millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth, the tribulation coming on the Jews for their rejection of the Lord Jesus (all of which is clearly spelled out in Romans 9-11) the marriage of the Lamb and on you go with it.

In addition, I find that the Catholic Church has similar beliefs.

To say nothing about the struggle going on in the Methodist Church across our nation. They are splitting up over the issues of homosexuality, and same sex marriages etc. And the problems these congregations are having is “who owns the land their buildings sit upon” and who will pay who, and how much, to opt out of the Methodist Churches etc.

Beloved, these are great days for you to share what you believe. You have much understanding and I hope you are using it.

Feel free to give any of the lessons on the Book of Romans to whomever you choose. Make copies and give to your friends. Give them to the folks that are not hearing the truth. Understand that there is nothing new under the sun. Everything I share, I have either been taught or have read myself.

Do not be afraid to share it with your orbit. Time is running out for us to get involved. Please feel free to copy and paste or make copies of anything I have written. The world needs the truth. I had no idea how many folks are in the dark out there.

They are all around you also/

Direct them to www.TomMorrisonGodcast.com

More on Romans in the next lesson #8

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