



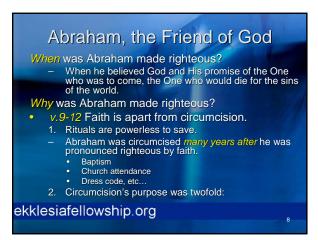




Abraham, the Friend of God Chapter 4: Abraham, the man of faith. Paul is going to spend an entire chapter on the vital role faith plays in our relationship with God. Paul answers two questions concerning the nature of faith through the life of Abraham. When was Abraham made righteous? Why was Abraham made righteous? V.1-3 Abraham could have chosen two ways to gain a sense of worth and right standing before God. Works. If so, he has something to boast about (but not before God) Righteousness which comes from performance is worthless ekklesiafellowship.org



Abraham, the Friend of God v.4-5 – "but to the one who does not work" - if you have worked, then you have earned your wages. - Wages are not a gift, but an obligation that must be paid. - One cannot take credit for a free gift - We do not work for our worth, but we do work from our worth. v.6-8 – through Ps. 51, Paul uses David to confirm, from the negative, it's not what you do for God, it's what you do with God. - "the man whose sin" - Who is "the man?" – the person who is "in Christ" ekklesiafellowship.org





Abraham, the Friend of God 2. The Law renders the promise worthless. - The Law demanded perfection - We could never have followed the law perfectly and thus could never have received worth. - v. 16-17 Paul next tells us two things that faith does: 1. It makes the promise of worth real. 2. Faith introduces the principle of grace. - Law and grace do not cancel each other out. - What then is the purpose of the law today? - The Law draws you to the grace of God. - I can't do it of myself. Thank you for doing the work on my behalf.

Abraham, the Friend of God v.17-20 The Heart of Romans 4 - Paul explains faith in 3D 1. The Object of faith. (God) • Abraham believed God - The power of your faith depends upon the object in which your faith is placed - The amount of faith has nothing to do with it. - The question isn't how big is your faith, but how big is your God? 2. The obstacles of faith—unbelief (Satan) • Hopeless circumstances - "he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead" - How are you doing in this? (Gal. 2:20) ekklesiafellowship.org

Abraham, the Friend of God 3. The objective of faith (Man) - As we remain focused on the Object and overcome the obstacles, we attain the objective. - The objective of faith is maturity and growth - James 1:2-4 V.21-22 "being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." - Faith is not unsupported, irrational hope, but the grounding of our lives in the truth about God. - Abraham was grounded in the truth. - He was fully persuaded.

Abraham, the Friend of God Hebrews 4:2 – the great warning. Hebrews 11:6 – without faith, it is impossible to please God. James 2:23 – do you want to be known as "the friend of God?" v.23-25 Paul argues that Abraham's faith was not extraordinary, but ordinary. (Matt 17:20) When were you made righteous? Why were you made righteous? Do you just believe in God, or do you believe God? ekklesiafellowship.org