

ROMANS: PART 18 EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

Abraham: Justified Through Faith -- Not By Circumcision Romans 4:9-12

The Context.

1. Gospel of Justification Defined. Rom 3:21-26.
2. Gospel of Justification Defended. Rom 3:27-31.
3. Gospel of Justification Demonstrated. Rom 4:1ff.

The Question. Rom 4:9a.

1. Did circumcision have anything to do with Abraham's being made right before God?
2. If it can be proven that Abraham was justified *prior* to being circumcised then:
 - ◆ Circumcision is not necessary for justification.
 - ◆ Faith-plus-circumcision is not necessary for justification.
 - ◆ Baptism, the Mass, the Lord's Supper, etc are not necessary for justification.
 - ◆ Justification is for anyone who *believes*.

The Answer. Rom 4:9b-10.

1. Romans 4:9a: Abraham was justified in Genesis 15:6.
2. Romans 4:10: Abraham was circumcised in Genesis 17:1ff.
 - ◆ Abraham was circumcised at least 14 years *after* he was justified!
 - ◆ Circumcision did not help to save him!

The Meaning of Circumcision. Rom 4:11-12.

1. Definition of "*Sign*" and "*Seal*":
 - ◆ A visible object that points to something different & greater than itself.
 - ◆ An indicator of ownership.
 - ◆ An authority's Mark -- validating something & standing behind what is marked.
2. Circumcision as a sign & seal:
 - ◆ A pointer to the Coming Messiah -- The Seed through Whom righteousness would come. Gal 3:16; Rom 4:11.
 - ◆ A pointer to the holiness He would establish -- He would purify the Hearts & lives of His people. Deut 10:16; Jer 9:26; Col 2:11.
 - ◆ An indicator of His ownership -- I belong to Him who is my only Hope of righteousness. Col 3:11; Eph 2:11.
 - ◆ A Seal of God's promise - The Messiah *will* come & save. Gal 3:16.
 - ◆ A Seal of God's promise -- The Messiah *will* establish righteousness. Rom 4:11.
3. Abraham therefore is the *father* of:
 - ◆ The believer who has no religious signs. Vs 11b.
 - ◆ The believer who, although he already has a sign, trusts only in the Messiah. Vs 12.

APPLICATION

1. Embrace Only Christ (*sola Christa*) and you will be saved
2. Embrace Christ only with faith (*sola fide*) and you will be saved.