

STICK TO THE PLAN

ROMANS 4:1-5

3/2/25

I. ABRAHAM – STAR WITNESS

Romans 4:1 - “What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?”

- A. Abraham was the Father of the Jewish people**
- B. Abraham is significant in – Judaism, Islam and Christianity**
- C. Abraham shows that God’s plan has ALWAYS been the same**

II. JEWISH BELIEF ABOUT ABRAHAM

Romans 4:2 - “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.”

- A. Jews believed Abraham was justified by his works**

III. SCRIPTURES TEACHING ON ABRAHAM

Romans 4:3 - “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.’”

- A. Abraham’s faith not his works or obedience counted**

Genesis 15

- B. God’s covenant was not contingent upon Abraham**
- C. Abraham did NOTHING**
- D. What did Abraham believe?**
 - 1. Not in God’s existence or reliability
 - 2. Abraham believed God was powerful to keep His promise

IV. “COUNTED”

- A. Financial term that refers to crediting**
- B. God’s credit is the righteousness that we lack**

Romans 4:4-5 - “Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness...”

- C. If we work for our salvation...then God is in debt to us**
- D. If we don’t work...then we must believe in another**
- E. Works based faith undervalues our sin and overvalues our ability**
- F. In our inability we must have faith in God!**

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Every major religion has a component of works-based faith associated with it. Why is it that humans desire to earn their salvation?
3. Why is justification by faith so difficult for us to comprehend?
4. How does an appropriate view of sin aid us in seeking justification by faith and not works?
5. How can we check our motivation so that our actions don't lean towards justification by works? What are some scriptures or tools that have aided you in this pursuit?
6. How does understanding justification by faith motivate you to live godly?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out? How can the group encourage you in that this week?