

CIRCUMCISION AND BAPTISM

ROMAN 4:6-12

3/9/25

I. THE BLESSING

Romans 4:6-8 – “...just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷ ‘Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.’”

A. The blessing = our justification

B. The blessing precedes the action

II. QUESTION & ANSWER

Romans 4:9-10 – “Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised.”

A. Question - Who is this blessing for?

B. Answer – The chronology of Abraham’s faith

1. God’s promise (*Genesis 12:1-3*)
2. Abraham’s faith (*Genesis 15:6*)
3. Abraham’s circumcision (works) (*Genesis 17:10-11*)

III. ABRAHAM’S CIRCUMCISION

Romans 4:11a – “He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised....”

A. Was a sign of the covenant

B. Was a seal of his faith

1. Seal = signet ring used for proving genuineness
2. Circumcision happened after his faith

IV. JEWISH CIRCUMCISION

*Genesis 17:11 - “You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a **SIGN** of the covenant between me and you.”*

A. Was ONLY a sign of the covenant

B. Circumcision preceded Jewish faith

V. APPLICATION

Romans 4:11b-12 – “The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.”

A. Abrahams’s circumcision functions like Baptism does for us

1. Baptism takes place after salvation
2. Baptism is an act of faith and obedience

B. Paul uses this argument to show us that Abraham is Father to ALL through faith not blood

1. Unifying statement for the Roman Church

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why was it so important for God to declare Abraham righteous BEFORE His command to be circumcised? What does this teach us about the Gospel?
3. Paul quotes David’s words from Psalm 32. Read that Psalm together aloud as a group. What does this Psalm teach us about forgiveness and how we should approach it?
4. Abraham was obedient to God in performing the act of circumcision. What are some instances where God has called you to be obedient? How have those situations demonstrated your faith?
5. In James 2, James teaches us that our faith in Christ will produce obedient works...what are some obedient works that believers are called to?
6. How could Romans 4 help you share the Gospel with someone? What things does this passage highlight that would aid you in explaining the Gospel to someone?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you can take with you and live out? How can the group be praying for you as you live that out?