“Abraham Believed God”

Intro: As we’ve studied the Galatian Letter we found that some false teachers (Judaizers) had infiltrated the church and were teaching that salvation came to an individual through ________ _______ their obedience to certain aspects of the Mosaic Law.

A. Having presented his apostolic calling and personal salvation experience, and the Galatians’ own salvation experience as proof that salvation comes through _________ alone and not by works of the Law, Paul then went for the juggler vein so as to bring the Judaizers’ error to a sudden and absolute end. Here, to show that salvation is by faith ___________ and always has been, Paul turned from personal salvation experiences to the _______________ ___________ of God.

B. Here then, the Apostle Paul turns to the Scripture to defend justification by __________ alone by speaking of God’s relationship with _______________.

I. The Apostle wrote, verse 6, “Even so Abraham _______________ _______, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

A. Abraham was _______________ before God by God through the same means as the Galatians: not by works but ________ _________!

1. In showing the Galatians that works of the ________ could not save them Paul showed that works of the Law _______________ ____________ a single soul, including the patriarch of those who made such an outlandish claim.

B. Paul quoted Genesis 15:6, “Then he believed in the ___________ ; and He __________________ it to him as righteousness.”

1. This is a forensic righteousness judicially _______________ by the Eternal Judge, God Almighty, on Abraham’s account because of Abraham’s faith in the LORD. By

2. William Hendriksen writes, “… if the opponents imagine that for their emphasis on the necessity of circumcision as a means unto salvation they can appeal to the story of Abraham (Gen. 17:23-27), let it then be emphasized that the patriarch’s justification _______________ his circumcision ______ many _______________. (Gen. 15:6; 16:16; 17:24). Righteousness was reckoned to him not after but long before he had been circumcised (Rom. 4:9-12); so that, _____ a _______________ of this prior justification, he became the father of all believers, the uncircumcised as well as the circumcised.”

C. The O.T. sign of physical circumcision outwardly marked Israel as God’s chosen nation just as He proposed, and it was a _______________ of that which was to come and now is: the _______________ circumcision of the heart that marks every believer as set apart unto God. Romans 2:28-29, “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is _____ _______ _______________, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

1. Beloved, as it has been from the beginning obedience to the Law never saved, circumcision never merited salvation for anyone, not even one soul! But ______ _______________ believed God and God reckoned it to him as righteousness so are all who are ________ justified __________.
II. So far as the heavens are concerned the true spiritual sons of Abraham are _______ those who are of his ____________ bloodline and who bear the physical sign of circumcision, but his true children are those who have come to have faith in Christ. The people of faith are the _______ spiritual ____________ of Abraham. We who God “follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham” and “Abraham … is the father of us all” “who are of the faith of Abraham”. (cf. Rom. 4:12, 16).

III. The eternal plan of God, that He would ____________ Gentiles ___ ____________, was actually preached to Abraham during his day.

A. The gospel message of the salvation of the Gentiles by grace through ____________ was presented to Abraham long ____________ he was circumcised and very long before Moses received the _________.

B. ________ Himself, knowing His own purpose and knowing what He would declare and bring about through Christ, and knowing in advance (therefore, foreseeing) that He would without failure bring about the justification of Gentiles by means of faith, _________ this truth to Abraham and inscripturated what He spoke for the believer’s (our) learning.

C. God preached the ________ ________ to Abraham promising, “_____ the ________ shall be blessed in you.” (Gen 12:3; 18:18; 22:15)

1. God ____________ to Abraham proclaiming the good news that He would divinely save Gentiles among all the nations of the earth justifying them just as He had ____________ him ___ _________.

IV. So then, it is only logical and it is irrefutably ____________ by the authority of Scripture as spoken _____ ________ Himself: those who are of faith, who are justified by faith just as Abraham was are blessed with him, sharing in the blessings of ____________ with Abraham, the believer.

A. Blessing of all blessings! By faith we are justified by God and along with Abraham we are most blessed for our lawless deeds have been ____________, and our ______ covered. We with Abraham are blessed for our sin the ________ will not take into account!

Conclusion: Beloved, the gospel of ______ is the gospel of ______: people are saved by grace through faith in Christ. Never has anyone ever been saved by any other means than faith. ________ has always been the means by which God receives and justifies the believer – always! - even from the very beginning for this unique plan of _______________ was conceived in the mind ____ ________ from before the foundation of the world.

A. Beloved, ____________ of righteousness ____________ did save and never shall works of righteousness ________. Abraham’s works did not merit salvation but it was because he believed God that God reckoned it to him as righteousness. And so must we trust in the Lord for we are saved by the grace of God through the faith He grants by which we believe that Jesus is the Christ. This is the way God saves His elect, and it is the way He has always saved His elect.

B. ____________ a believer? Will it be said of you that you are “the ____________”? Romans 4:7-8, “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, ______ And whose sins have been covered. ______ “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.” What must I do to be saved? ________________ on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will ____________!

Heritage Christian Fellowship - 11104 Menaul Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112 - 505.323.0557 - www.abqhcf.org