



The Book of Romans

Tuesday Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

April 7: Abraham and David

Romans 4:1-12

Why is boasting so difficult to hear?

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Is boasting before God a good idea?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me."

Romans 4:1-2

Did Abraham stand in the right before God by means of God's Law or good works?

Can Abraham boast before God? Why or why not?

^{NLT} **Romans 4:2** Was it because of his good deeds that God accepted him? If so, he would have had something to boast about. But from God's point of view Abraham had no basis at all for pride.

Romans 4:3

What does the Scripture say about Abraham and God's promise?

What Scripture does Paul have in mind?

Genesis 15:5-6 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Why can God credit righteousness to another?

Romans 4:4-5

Generally, what should the one who works receive? What does the one who has faith receive?

“Here he clearly says that faith itself is credited for righteousness. Faith is that thing God declares to be righteousness. Paul adds that righteousness is credited freely. He says that it could not be credited freely if it were due because of works. Therefore, he excludes also the merit of moral works. For if justification before God were due to these moral works, faith would not be credited for righteousness without works.” - *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession*

Romans 4:6-8

Aside from Abraham, which forefather spoke of faith counted as righteousness?

Psalm 32:1-2 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

What happens to our sin according to David? On what basis?

Romans 4:9-10

Are the blessings of God through faith limited to the Jews? Why or why not?

Genesis 17:10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Romans 4:11-12

What does Paul call circumcision?

Our churches teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but even more, to be signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us. They were instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Therefore, we must use the Sacraments in such a way that faith, which believes the promises offered and set forth through the Sacraments, is increased.” - *The Augsburg Confession*

In what way are we to walk in the footsteps of Abraham?