

**What Did Abraham Receive?**

*Rom 4.1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 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." 9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? ... 13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ... 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." 23 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

\* What two things is Paul trying to prove?

1)

2)

\* How does the NT open?

\* What does David sing of in Psalm 32?

\* When does the story of Abraham begin?

\* God's call of Abraham was not only about ... it was about ...

\* What insight do these four verses give us?

1) Rom 4.13:

2) Gal 3.16: "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ."

3) Gal 3.29: "[I]f you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise."

4) Gal 3.8: "The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations will be blessed in you.'"

\* What was the distinguishing mark of Abraham, and how did it show up?

\* The contrast Paul is making in vs 4-5 is not ... but ...

\* The diff. between a son and an employee is not ... but ...

\* A son cannot earn an inheritance; he can only ...

\* What is Jesus' point in the unprofitable servant parable?

\* How is Jesus the perfect older brother?