

Inheriting the Promises 3

Rom 4 ⁹ [Faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. ¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, ¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised. ¹³ For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

► Paul is addressing the central indictment brought by the religious leaders of Israel against the gospel of Jesus Christ, which was that if right standing & right relationship with God is available simply by faith in Jesus Christ, then God has repudiated his _____ & his _____. Paul and the apostles had one constant answer: Go back and read _____.

► Last week we looked at Gn15, which is all about the _____ & _____ of Christ, the promised Seed. Abraham was counted righteous by faith _____. God made any covenant with Abraham. Further, when God does make a covenant in Gn15, it involves God alone, and it foreshadows the _____ of Christ on the cross.

► Paul next moves (Rm4.11) to Gn_____, where God makes another covenant with Abraham and gives the covenant sign of circumcision. This covenant came _____ years after Abraham was counted righteous by faith, which means covenant membership & privileges cannot be necessary to _____.

► In Gn17, God is creating means for _____ the salvation which he has long ago made available by faith alone in the promised Seed alone.

1) God is formally acknowledging that he saves us to restore us as his sons & daughters so we can _____ with him.

Gn 17 ¹ “[W]alk before Me and be blameless. ² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly ... ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful.”

Eph 2 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. ... ⁵ Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love ... ⁸ ... Walk as children of light ... ¹⁵ ... walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise ...

2) God is harkening back to his words to Adam & Eve, & Noah. God is reminding Abraham what is really in view, which is the whole _____ (Rm4.13).

Gn 1 ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it”

Gn 9 ¹ God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth”

Ps 2 ⁷ “The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.’”

Mt 28 ¹⁸ “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

3) God is reminding Abraham that his promises will _____ be fulfilled by a normal son born the normal way, but by a special Son of Promise, born miraculously.

Gn 17 ¹⁶ And I will bless [Sarah] and also give you a son by her” ... ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall ... Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before

You!" ¹⁹ Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his [seed] after him."

4) This is part of the meaning of circumcision, that neither Abraham nor any other man can beget the promised Seed, but only _____.

Lk 1 ³⁵ "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Col 2 ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Dt 10 ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer."

Rm 2 ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

► The Gn17 covenant and its sign of circumcision pointed:

1) to the promised Seed and to _____ in him as the only means of righteousness before God (Rm4.11-12);

2) to the relationship with God and the calling to walk with him, which is why God created us & _____ us;

3) to the children God has entrusted to us, that we should bring them up, not to the faith, but _____ the faith.

In all these ways, the covenant & its elements were designed to create the best environment for cultivating faith in Christ, a blessed walk with God, and the furtherance of his kingdom.

► Putting all this together:

1) Gn15, which is about the person & work of Christ & faith in him, is the _____ which supports the entire house which God is building.

1Cor 3 ¹¹ No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Pt 2 ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house ... acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

2) Gn17, with its covenant membership & privileges, is built on _____ in order to serve, protect, & promote that foundation.

3) Together they form a single house whose builder is _____.

4) If you invert the house or if you try to have framing with no foundation, the house will _____. This was the error of Cain, Ishmael, and the religious leaders of Israel.

► Trust in Christ alone, while receiving covenant membership & its privileges as servants of the faith, and they will be great _____ to you and your children. But trust in the covenant & its privileges, and you turn them into idols, making them a _____ to you & your children.