

The Father of Faith

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 4:1-12.

B. Righteousness is the gift of worth from God that He gives men.

II. Three important questions about Abraham.

A. How Abraham was given the gift of worth.

1. We can gain worth by performance.

a. We all find clever ways of showing our importance.

b. What we desperately need is a sense of worth.

c. Performance does not work for God because He knows the heart.

2. Abraham found approval by faith instead.

a. Abraham became the friend of God.

b. He achieved it by believing what God said about the coming of Jesus, His death and His resurrection (Galatians says that God taught Abraham what was meant by his seed).

3. What one earns is given as a wage (what is due), but what one is given is received as a gift—Abraham received his worth as a gift.

4. David received his worth as a gift. (Psalm 51)

5. The believer's standing rests on the work of Christ.

B. When Abraham was given the gift of worth.

1. He was given this gift before circumcision.

2. Therefore, Abraham could not have been accepted based on a ritual.

3. The real purpose of circumcision was as a sign and a seal.

C. Why Abraham was given the gift of worth.

1. It was to make him a father of the Jews and the Gentiles.

2. All believers are children of Abraham by faith.

III. Faith is the only way to gain worth from God.

Application questions:

1. Have you ever struggled with a sense of worth? What can you learn from your struggle in light of the message?

2. How would you respond to someone who tells other Christians that they must obey God or He will not be pleased with them?

3. Is acceptance only a matter of belief in something or must that something be identified according to the Scriptures? Defend your answer.
