**We are the Promised Heirs**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 4:9-14**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 3, 2024**

**Romans 4:9-13**

9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that 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.

14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,

**9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.**

**Genesis 15:6**

“And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness”

Saints, does this blessing refer only to the Jews, or is it for Gentiles as well? Back to Abraham who was declared righteous by God because of his faith.

**Galatians 3:14**

“that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”

It was Abraham’s faith, not his faithfulness to certain rituals, that made him righteous. The critical question is:

Was he declared righteous only after he had been circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised?

Paul uses the term “circumcised”

to refer to the whole of the law, because circumcision implies a desire to live under the demands of the law.

**10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.**

Saints, Paul immediately answers his own question—God accepted him first, and then he was circumcised later!

God called Abraham in Genesis 12

**Genesis 12:1-3**

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Saints, then God declared him righteous in Genesis 15

**Genesis 15:4-6**

4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Saints, then God introduced the circumcision ceremony in Genesis 17.

**Genesis 17:23-27**

23 So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him. 24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael; 27 and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

**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,**

Saints, Abraham’s circumcision sealed the righteous standing he already had with God because of his faith. God said:

**Genesis 17:10-13**

10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; 11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

Saints, God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised.

So, Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised.

He is the father of those who are made right with God by faith.

That makes him the father of Gentiles who have believed in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**Luke 19:9-10**

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

**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.**

Saints, but he is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, meaning the Jews.

But this only applies to those Jews who have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised, faith in God, not in their own goodness.

Abraham is father of all who believe in God. He is father of uncircumcised believers because he was uncircumcised when he was considered righteous;

he is the father of circumcised believers not simply because of common Jewish heritage, but because they both had faith in God.

**Ezekiel 33:23-24**

23 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 24 "Son of man, they who inhabit those ruins in the land of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was only one, and he inherited the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession.'

**Psalm 47:8-9**

8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne. 9 The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.

**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.**

Saints, the promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants is found in

**Genesis 12:2-3**

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Genesis 15:5**

Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Saints, this promise was made to Abraham many years before the requirement of circumcision, and hundreds of years before the giving of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

**1. Honor your father and mother**

**2. You shall not commit adultery**

**3. You shall not steal**

**4. You shall not bear false witness**

**5. You shall not kill**

**6. Keep the Sabbath holy**

**7. You shall have no other gods before me**

**8. You shall not covet**

**9. You shall not murder**

**10. You shall not make idols**

Saints, Abraham believed God’s promise, even though it was also made when he was almost one hundred years old and did not yet have any children.

The promise was based on his faith not his obedience to a set of laws that did not yet exist.

**14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,**

Saints, if people must obey God’s law and be good enough in order to be saved, then faith is useless.

That, in turn, would make God’s promise also meaningless. If the law does not bring righteousness, then why does it exist?

The law brings punishment. In other words, in a world where people can make real choices,

the law’s presence automatically includes the possibility of failure and the consequences that would follow.

**Galatians 3:21-25**

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**