

The Illustration of Righteousness

Romans 4:1-12

May 9th, 2018

Introduction

A. Romans 4 is an entire chapter of illustrations that revolves around one major illustration, Abraham, and it is illustrating the thought found in verse 28 of chapter 3.

B. The Jewish readers of Paul's letter would read 3:28 and say, "what about the father of our nation"

1. So Paul says "Let's play pretend" – verse 1
2. Abraham did have something he could boast about – verse 2a
3. He may boast of his works before men but not before God – verse 2-b
4. Let's see what the scripture says – let's not pretend anymore
5. Paul quotes from Genesis 15:6 (verses 1, 2, 5)
Note the word "counted" or "reckoned" – accounting term
6. Paul illustrates an illustration – verses 3-4
7. Verse 5 - One of the most important words in verse 5 is the word "ungodly"
 - Do you know who are the objects of God's love?

 - Do you know who gets the gift of grace?

8. Then he gives another illustration and quotes from Psalm 32 – verses 7-8

9. Let's read the passage with Jewish eyes and mind set.
The Jew would read this and say," that's pretty convincing, but you know as well as I that Abraham was circumcised."

10. Paul's thought here is: If I can show you that as Abraham was circumcised after he was declared righteous – verses 9-10

Genesis:
15:6 – how old?

16:15-16 – how old?

17:22-24

11. Paul gives the answer – verse 11