

# CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

“Studies in the Book of Romans - 08

Date: October 25, 2009

Text: Rom. 4:1-25

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## *SAVED BY FAITH (ALONE)*

**INTRODUCTION** How important it was for the apostle Paul to clearly explain the way of salvation, and the means of justifying sinners before a holy, righteous and just God. Although Israel had fallen away from their heritage, and had turned to human pride and sin as to fulfilling their idea of relationship to God, Paul chopped that off, and condemned all “works-righteousness,” of Jewish rites and Gentile religion. Now it was time to show God’s example and paragon of faith in the person of Abraham. Let’s look at see ...

### **I. THE PRINCIPLE OF FAITH EXAMPLED – (4:1-8)**

- A) An Appeal - “to the faith of Abraham”
- B) An Application - “to the faith of David”

### **II. THE PARASITES OF FAITH EXPOSED – (4:9-15)**

- A) The Falsehood of Rites – “Circumcision cannot save”
- B) The Futility of Rules – “The Law cannot save”

### **III. The POWER OF FAITH EXPOUNDED – (4:16-25)**

- A) God’s Paragon – “Abraham, the Father of Faith”
- B) God’s Promise – “All are justified through faith”

**CONCLUSION:** Today it is not uncommon for those who claim to be rightly related to God, even through Jesus Christ, to agree they all come by faith and believe in Jesus Christ. However, Romans 4 is the great faith chapter that goes beyond faith, and requires it to be faith, plus nothing else. The word by faith “alone” is the watershed which divides religion from true Christianity. Do you trust in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, “alone,” as your means of relationship to the holy God who created you? May God examine our hearts to see if there is anything else we cling to, to either be saved or to remain saved and if so, jettison it now for true bible faith, “alone,” in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

## TEXT FOR MESSAGE

*The New International Version*

**Rom 4:1-25 (NIV)** What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God. 3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." 9 Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. 10 Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. 12 And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. 13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, 15 because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. 18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." 23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.