

Raised For Our Justification

(Rom 4:22-25)

- Read Rom 4:13-25
 - Having examined the case of Abraham, the apostle now not only draws his conclusion, but explains his seeming digression
- I. Rom 4:22- “Therefore” (application)
- A) This connective word is one of the most important in all the scriptures
1. It is the link between doctrine and application, and that is exactly what Paul does here:
 - i. He shows us how the example in scripture of Abraham is an instrument for our own learning and especially our application in testing our faith
 - ii. “In these verses, the whole of Christianity is comprehended”- Martin Luther
 2. V.23- Written not simply for Abraham’s sake (vindication) but written for our admonition and use
 - i. Moses wrote Genesis over 400 years after Abraham’s justification
 - ii. Rom 15:4- Scripture for the believer and his battle of faith
 3. Rom 4:22-25- Paul’s explanation of his use of Abraham, God’s chosen example of “justification by faith”
 - i. Job 9:2- “How can a man be just with God?”
 - a) How can I know I am forgiven? How can I face death and judgment without terror? The answer is the same way as Abraham
- II. Rom 4:24- “If” (the test)
- A) Faith believes on and glorifies God
1. We must not omit any member of the Godhead, as so many cults do
 - i. Belief in God alone will not justify, otherwise the Jews needed no salvation
 2. Yet true faith does start and end with God the Father, the cause of all
 - i. 1 Pet 3:18- “Bring us to God”
- B) Faith believes on God with specific regard to the fact of His resurrecting of Christ
1. You cannot be a Christian without believing in the literal bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - i. 1 Cor 15:5-18, Rom 10:9, 1 Thess 4:14
- C) Faith believes what God has testified to certain and specific things by the resurrection of Christ

1. God made particular and certain promises the Abraham, and it was believing God concerning those things that were the instruments of his justification
 - i. And in exactly the same way God has made particular promises to us through the death and resurrection of the Lord
 - ii. What does the resurrection declare?
 - a) That Jesus is the Lord (v.24)
 - 1) Rom 1:3-4- Declared to be the Son of God by resurrection
 - b) The He was raised out from among the truly dead (v.24)
 - c) That He was “delivered” (v.25)
 - 1) Rom 8:32- Christ did not simply “die,” He was ordained to death by God the Father, and wasn’t just killed by the Romans as the modernists believe
 - 2) But then the question must come, “if He was the Son of God, why did He die?” (as apostles on road to Emmaus asked)
 - (a) John 3:16- Gave His only begotten Son
 - (b) Acts 2:23- God’s foreordained plan and means of redemption
 - (c) Isa ch 53- It pleased Him.....
 - (d) 1 Pet 1:20- Foreordained to death before the foundation of the world
 - (1) This is God’s only method of justification
 - d) “For” (v.25)
 - 1) I must believe that it was due to my sin/sins that He died
 - (a) The world believes he was a moral and good man killed for His convictions
 - (b) 2 Cor 5:21- Made to be sin for me
 - e) “Our” (v.25)
 - 1) Eph 5:25-27- Christ gave His life for His church
 - 2) John 10:14-16- “I lay down My life for the sheep”
 - f) “Offences” (v.25)
 - 1) Transgressions against God’s Law, rightly called trespasses
 - (a) Faith affirms the guilty verdict and the right demand of God for perfection
 - g) “Raised again for our justification” (see next point)
- III. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is God’s proclamation that He is satisfied!
- A) 1 Cor 15:17- If Christ be not raised ye are yet in your sins
1. If the Lord stayed dead, then that would mean that the law and penalty of death claimed even Him
 - i. Luke 24:21- We thought it had be He.....

- B) Christ resurrection and ascension to God's right hand not only prove His righteousness, but validate and verify His intercession
 - 1. Just as the High Priest on the Day of Atonement
 - i. His resurrection is the jingling of the bells
- C) Christ's resurrection and ascension proves that all blessings flow through Him
 - 1. John 1:16- "Of His fullness we receive"
 - 2. Eph 4:7-9- "Received gifts for men"
 - 3. 1 Cor 1:30- He is my righteousness
 - i. Faith believes on Christ as the only way, and that ordained by God
 - a) How else could God justify the ungodly and remain godly Himself?
 - b) 2 Cor 5:19- Double imputation
 - c) Rom 3:25-26- Just and the Justifier
- D) If we believe these promises, God would be unjust to not save us, as He would be denying Christ Himself
 - 1. 2 Tim 2:13- God cannot deny Himself
 - i. The doctrine of vicarious suffering and imputed righteousness makes it impossible for God to deny a believer without denying His Own Son and His death at Calvary
- E) "Our justification"
 - i. A present promise and reality, my current possession, in spite of what I am and the sin I have remaining
 - a) And so true faith looks to Christ alone, and not to self at all, and isn't put off from trusting God by the present physical conditions of our flesh
 - 1) Back to Abraham's example:
 - (a) Abraham believed the specific promise of God
 - (b) Abraham believed solely based on God's word
 - (c) Abraham believed in spite of contrary visible evidence
 - (1) Faith believes it will be fruitful even while unfruitful and barren
 - (d) Abraham was fully persuaded
 - (e) Abraham acted on that belief (Abraham's "therefore")
 - (1) It is important that we remember that Abraham had strong faith, and that there is weak faith. But the components will all be there nonetheless
 - (2) It is by this faith that we can withstand the attacks of the devil
 - (3) Read Standing on the Promises