

**Ivy Baptist Church**  
**Wednesday Bible Study**  
**Rev. Kevin G. Swann, Pastor**  
**March 3, 2010**  
**The Book of Romans Part 7 (Romans 4:1-12)**

**New Testament Questions:**

- 1. What book describes the history of the church? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What author wrote 13 (or 14) books in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Name two books in “General Letters” section? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- What are the three ways we study the bible (AAA)?
- 1. \_\_\_\_\_-What do we \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_-What does it \_\_\_\_\_?
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_-How will I use it in my walk with \_\_\_\_\_?

**Fundamentals of Christianity (Romans 3)**

<b>Myths about Christianity</b>	<b>Truths about Christianity</b>
1. I have to get myself together before coming to God.	1. It’s impossible to get yourself “right” before coming to God.
2. I do “works” to prove my allegiance to God.	2. Works can’t save you. We are justified by FAITH ALONE.
3. I’m right with God based upon what I do. (i.e. go to church)	3. I’m right with God based upon who I believe in, (Christ).
4. What I do for God puts me in the right place with God.	4. What I do for God demonstrates my FAITH IN GOD.
5. The “laws” are my principles to live by for God.	5. The “law” proves I’m a sinner, incapable of obeying them all.

**Today’s Lesson: Romans 4:1-12**

- **(Romans 4:1-4)**
- Paul continues his argument of justification by \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
- He calls on Abraham to help add credence to his argument.
- Abraham was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jewish nation and was looked upon by them as being completely acceptable in God’s sight.
- It will strengthen Paul’s argument to point out that Abraham was put right with God through faith, rather than through obedience to the Law.

- They understood that he was a great man and that even if he was able to boast before men, he could not do so before God.
  - It was Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ that set him in "right position" with God and not by any of his works.
  - In verse 4, Paul explains that "work" and "wages" is different from "faith" and "grace". If you work, then you expect a wage for your labor.
  - A wage is not \_\_\_\_\_ it is the debt that you are owed for your labor.
- **Romans 4:5-8:**
  - Paul further expounds on the one who works and the one who simply believes God.
  - He says that the one who simply \_\_\_\_\_ God is put in "right position" with God because of his faith.
  - The one who works, gets a wage; the one who believes God, gets "right position" with God.
  - In verses 6-8, David tells how blessed a man is to have been put in a "right position" with God, regardless of how unworthy he is. The blessing is that his lawless deeds are forgiven and his sins are covered; his sins are not "posted to his account."
  - This is characteristic of person who is justified; he has been declared "not guilty."
- **Romans 4:9-12**
  - **Table Discussion (answer the following question)**
  - 1. Is this blessing only for the circumcised (God's Chosen People)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Was Abraham's faith accounted for righteousness, before or after he was circumcised?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Is Abraham the father of all those who believe? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Jews took glory in both, circumcision and the Law. So they would have naturally concluded that this blessing is only for the circumcised. Paul would let them know that their conclusion was in error.
  - This would let the Jews know that justification is not based on circumcision (nor is it based on the Law).
  - God had set Abraham in a "right position" with him, years before he was circumcised.
  - Circumcision was an outward indication (a sign and a seal) of the righteousness that Abraham had already received.
  - As a "sign" it was evidence that he belonged to God and believed His promise.
  - As a "seal" it was a reminder to him that God had given the promise and would keep
  - Because he was justified before he was circumcised, God allowed Abraham to become the father of ALL who believe (both the circumcised and the uncircumcised) .
  - For God's chosen people, they must do more than just be circumcised to claim Abraham as their father, they must also walk in the steps of faith as Abraham did (while he was yet uncircumcised).
- **Summary:**
  - Paul uses the example of Abraham and the words of David to lend credence to the fact that justification by faith alone, is an Old Testament concept.
  - Before Abraham received the covenant sign and seal, through circumcision, his faith had already been accounted for righteousness.
  - Justification is not based on anything that we do....not works...not circumcision...not the law
  - Abraham is our "spiritual" father.

**Apply: What did I learn in today's lesson that I need to develop in my relationship with God?**