

May 12, 2024



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆  
**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Barry Hosford

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

We who are in Christ are made holy by His blood the moment we believe in Him, but He actively grows the fruit of righteousness in our hearts throughout a lifetime

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Dear God, please work in me what's pleasing to You

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

Make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever  
(Heb 13:21 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 31, 2023)*

**Series: Examining Our Faith**  
**UNIT 3: The Measure of Faith**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Reconciled to God**  
**(Rom 5:1-11)**

## Counted as Righteous Rom 4:13-25

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Romans 4 is part of Paul's overall argument supporting his statement in Romans 1:16-17: Romans 1-3 explores God's primary challenge in keeping the ancient promises, namely, the profound sinfulness of all human beings (3:23). Chapter 4 begins the discussion of the remedy to universal sin. Far from facing a hopeless situation, humans have a model available to them of how to approach God. That model is the life of Abraham. When God promised that he would bless the world through Abraham, Abraham chose to respond in faith (Genesis 15:6; quoted in Romans 4:3, 9, 22; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23). Paul's readers, especially those of Jewish heritage, would have agreed that Abraham's legacy was important and valuable. The question in dispute is precisely what that legacy is. Paul argues that Abraham had a relationship with God because he placed his faith in God and trusted God's promises. Nothing else. In the New Testament, faith equals trust in God as the one who has promised to bless humanity. Jesus modeled that trust by submitting to his sacrificial death on a cross, being confident that God would work for good through Jesus' shame and suffering. That trust is the basis for any relationship with the same merciful God.

God counts us as righteous when we, like Abraham, trust the promises of redemption and live accordingly. We are not righteous because of the good we do or the evil we avoid, but because God acknowledges us as loyal to him, staking all our hopes on his promises. And his offer of salvation extends to all because sin has wrecked us all. We stand together in both our need and our hope. This unity of humanity may show itself in different ways. We might wallow together in our sin, growing increasingly hostile to each other and sacrificing our common humanity on the altar of greed, envy, pride, and hatred. Or we might acknowledge our need, trust in God's mercy, and so join in a community built on such a faith. The choice belongs to us. How do we build a community on such a basis? A church full of people who trust in God's promises live generous, open-hearted, kind lives. They, like Abraham, show hospitality to strangers as though they were angels (Hebrews 13:2). Such a church values the whole trajectory of a person's life of faith, emphasizing neither failures nor heroic successes but faithfulness in the face of adversity (James 1:2-3) and God's seeming slowness to act (2 Peter 3:9). This community of believers knows itself to be saved, not because of its own merits but because of God's mercy.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Righteous through Being an Heir (Rom 4:13-15)**

#### *Heir through faith (13)*

- Faith that involves confession (Rom 10:10)
- Faith that has as its object Jesus (Gal 2:16)
- Faith that must be lived (Gal 3:11)
- Faith that came because the law led to faith in Jesus (Gal 3:24)

#### *Heir through the value of God's promises (14)*

- Value because Jesus is the method of the promise (Gal 3:16)
- Value because God is able to do more than we can imagine (Eph 3:20)
- Value because nothing is too hard for God (Jer 32:17)
- Value because with God all things are possible (Matt 19:26)
- Value because God is able (2 Cor 9:8)
- Value because God will always complete the work in us (Phil 1:6)

#### *Heir outside of the Law (15)*

- An heir through lineage (Gen 15:4)
- An heir through God's promises (1 Kings 8:20)
- An heir through God's covenant (Ps 89:28-29)
- An heir through God's oath (Ps 132:11)
- An heir through prophesied genealogy (Isa 11:1-2)

### **Righteous through Faith (Rom 4:16-22)**

#### *Faith through grace (16)*

- Grace that comes by justification (Rom 5:1-3)
- Grace that is a gift from God through Jesus (Rom 5:15)
- Grace that increases as sin increases (Rom 5:20)
- Grace through whom a remnant has been chosen (Rom 11:5-6)
- Grace that is sufficient in weakness (2 Cor 12:9)
- Grace that justifies (Titus 3:4-7)

#### *Faith through sonship (17)*

- Sonship that requires adoption through the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14-17)
- Sonship that requires baptism into Jesus (Gal 3:26-29)
- Sonship that requires redemption (Gal 4:4-7)

#### *Faith through hope (18-19)*

- Hope that anchors the soul (Heb 6:18-20)
- Hope that will not disappoint (Rom 5:5)
- Hope that provides salvation (Rom 8:23-25)
- Hope into which we are called (Eph 4:4)
- Hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7)

#### *Faith in the guarantees of promises (20-21)*

- Guaranteed because God established it (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Guaranteed because we have been sealed (Eph 1:13-14)
- Guaranteed because God has vowed it (Heb 7:22)
- Guaranteed because God prepared it (2 Cor 5:5)

### **Righteous through Imputation (Rom 4:23-25)**

#### *Imputed belief (23-24)*

- Belief that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God (Matt 16:15-16)
- Belief that God exists and has faith in God (Heb 11:6)
- Believe to have eternal life (John 3:15)
- Belief that Jesus is God in the flesh (Col 2:9)
- Belief in the resurrection (John 11:25-26)

#### *Imputed justification (25)*

- Justification through redemption (Rom 3:24)
- Justification through faith apart from the law (Romans 3:28)
- Justification that brings peace (Rom 5:1)
- Justification through Jesus' blood (Romans 5:9)
- Justification that was predestined (Rom 8:30)
- Justification through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:11)
- Justification through grace (Titus 3:7)
- Justification through by faith and works (James 2:24)