

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

July 14, 2017

THEY DIED IN FAITH

There are two most important things every believer should know about Abraham. First, *“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”* Romans 4:3. Second, Abraham died in faith without receiving the promised redemption that he saw afar off. Hebrews 11:13.

If we believe the testimony of the scripture, we know that although Abraham was justified by faith, this justification was not the same as the salvation that comes to the believer through Jesus Christ. Paul includes Abraham when he says, *“AND THESE ALL, having obtained a good report through faith, RECEIVED NOT THE PROMISE: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”* Hebrews 11:39-40. Although justified by faith, Abraham went to the grave without that precious thing we know as *“salvation.”* He, and the other patriarchs of old, would not know or receive this great salvation until it was provided for us through the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Those who promote the idea that those who lived before Jesus came and suffered received this salvation in their lifetime by looking forward to the cross have closed their eyes to simple and plain statements of the Word of God. Paul said, *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them...”* Hebrews 11:13.

Why is this important to know and understand? Because your salvation is greater than what Abraham, David, or even Moses could ever know. Jesus said, *“Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”*

Matthew 11:11. There were many, such as Abraham, who were chosen by God because they believed God, but the redeemed are not only chosen by God, they are actually born of God. Redemption has changed the very essence of who they are. God may have walked with Abraham, but Christ lives within the children of God, and by the Holy Ghost, God himself abides in his people.

Abraham’s faith was a great thing. Out of his faith issued his obedience to God Genesis 22:18, and his righteous manner of life. Genesis 18:19. Believing God is the one thing that an unregenerate person can do that God calls righteousness. Paul said of those who *“...worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”* Romans 4:5. It was based upon this *“righteousness of faith”* that God was able to give such great promises to Abraham. Abraham found that those who believe God receive great promises which those who do not believe God can never receive.

When a lost person repents and believes the gospel of Christ they become one such as Abraham who is *“justified by faith.”* Romans 5:1-2. But this *“justification by faith”* brings them into a promise that is much more than anything Abraham ever received in his lifetime. Paul identifies this as *“Being JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE through the redemption that is in Christ*

Jesus." Romans 3:24 and as "*being now JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD...*" Romans 5:9. "*Justification by grace*" describes the work of the blood of Christ that delivers us from sin and makes us to be new creations. This is much more than what Abraham knew.

Perhaps the best description of this "*justification by grace*" is found in the sixth chapter of Romans. Paul says, "*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.*" Romans 6:6-7. The word translated as "*freed*" is the Greek word *dikaioō* which means "*to render just or innocent.*" This word is almost always translated as "*justified.*" Properly translated, this verse says, "*He that is dead is justified from sin.*" This is justification by grace. God's grace nailed our old man of sin to the cross of Christ so that our (entire) body of sin would be destroyed and we would no longer be servants to sin. This is the truth of the gospel. It is a justification that changes everything you are. This justification by grace makes you free from sin Romans 6:18 and it makes you righteous. Romans 5:19

Redemption is more than just YOU BELIEVING GOD. Redemption is the fulfillment of the promised salvation that comes to you through faith in Christ Jesus. The teaching that when we believe upon Jesus, God automatically sees us as innocent, righteous, perfect and holy is simply religious philosophy without a true scriptural foundation. When a person believes God, God sees them as ...a person who believes God. They have offered God "*the righteousness of faith*" and God responds by giving them this full salvation

which was purchased by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. This salvation changes everything. In it our old man is crucified, our sin destroyed and washed away by the blood of Christ, we are born of God, and walk upon earth as the children of God. Abraham saw these things afar off, but we receive them through Christ Jesus. It was not until Christ raised from the dead that Abraham received it also. Hebrews 12:23