

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: It's Time for Some Good News

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 4:1-12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2051

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Grace is the unmerited favor and kindness of God shown to one who does not deserve it and can never earn it.
 - i) You will be saved by grace, or you won't be saved at all.
- b) The Good News is the grace of God.
 - i) In Romans 1 – 3, the Apostle Paul tells us about the bad news.
 - (1) About sin, wickedness, and depravity.
 - (2) He shares with us the plight of the heathen, the hypocrite, the Hebrew, and the case against all humanity.
 - ii) Romans 3:23
 - (1) This is the bad news that makes the Good News good.
- c) Romans 4:1-5
- d) The word “Gospel” means “Good News.”
- e) In today's message, we will see the Good News according to three men:
 - i) Abraham
 - ii) David
 - iii) Paul

2) THE GRACE THAT ABRAHAM DISCOVERED (ROMANS 4:1)

- a) Romans 4:1
 - i) The word “found” here is the word from which we get our word “eureka.”
 - (1) It speaks of a discovery.
- b) Abraham was the first of the Jewish nation.
 - i) He was the premier saint and the beginner of the Jewish race.
 - ii) He was the founder of their faith.
 - iii) The Jewish people held Abraham in highest esteem.
- c) Romans 4:3
 - i) This passage is quoting Genesis 15:6.
 - (1) The Lord put it on Abraham's account for righteousness.
- d) Genesis 12:1-4
 - i) God called Abraham when he was a heathen in the land of Ur.
 - ii) God told Abraham to go to a land that He would give to him.
 - (1) God didn't tell Abraham where he was going, and Abraham set out under sealed orders.
- e) Genesis 15:1-6
 - i) Genesis 17:1-22
 - ii) Abraham was a very old man, and both he and his wife Sarah were past child-bearing years.
 - iii) God told Abraham that He was going to work a miracle in Abraham's life and that his wife Sarah would have a son.
 - (1) Abraham's offspring would be as numerous as the stars.
 - iv) Rather than arguing with God or doubting God, Abraham believed God.
 - (1) Romans 4:3
- f) For what did Abraham believe God?

- i) Abraham believed God for a miracle son.
 - (1) The Lord Jesus is also a miracle Son, who was born of a virgin.
 - (2) Abraham's miracle son pre-figures the Lord Jesus.
- ii) Abraham believed God could bring life out of death.
 - (1) Jesus came out of the grave.
 - (2) God gave life to Sarah's dead womb.
 - (3) This pre-figures the Gospel of God's miracle Son: His death, burial and resurrection.
 - (a) Romans 4:3
- g) Salvation by grace respects God's glory.
 - i) Romans 4:2
 - (1) If Abraham could have been saved by being good, then he could have boasted about it; he could have gloried in his own salvation.
 - (2) But when Abraham believed God, he gave God glory.
 - ii) The greatest thing we can do to glorify God is to believe God.
 - (1) 1 John 5:10
 - (2) When we say that someone cannot be believed, then we cut the tap root of that person's character.
 - (3) Faith pleases God because it glorifies God.
 - (a) Because faith pleases God, God rewards faith.
 - (b) If you want to please God, then believe God.
 - iii) Faith is not saying, "God, prove it to me, and then I'll believe it."
 - (1) Faith is a response to the nature and character of God.
 - (2) Faith believes God, not for what God has done, but for who God is.
 - (a) When your eye is right, your eye responds to light.
 - (b) When your ear is right, your ear responds to sound.
 - (c) When your heart is right, your heart responds to God.
 - (i) That response is faith.
 - iv) When a person is justified by faith, God gets the glory.
 - v) Many people want to try to put faith and works together.
 - (1) When you try to add your self-effort to the grace of God, you destroy the whole thing.
 - (a) If you think you can try to add your effort to it, then you take away God's glory.
 - (2) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - vi) Revelation 1:5-6
 - (1) This is what we will sing in Heaven.
- h) Salvation by grace receives God's gift.
 - i) Romans 4:3
 - (1) The word "counted" in this passage is used several times throughout this chapter, but is translated "imputed" and "reckoned."
 - (a) Romans 4:3
 - (b) Romans 4:6
 - (c) Romans 4:8

- (d) Romans 4:9
 - (e) Romans 4:10
 - (f) Romans 4:11
 - (g) Romans 4:22
 - (h) Romans 4:23
 - (i) Romans 4:24
- ii) The way we are saved is for God to count something, to reckon something, to impute something to our account.
- (1) God reckons or imputes or counts righteousness to us when we have the faith of Abraham.
 - (2) Adam's sin was imputed to us.
 - (a) Adam's sin was put on our account.
 - (b) When Adam sinned, he became a slave of sin.
 - (i) The child of a slave is a slave.
 - (ii) We also inherited Adam's sinful nature.
 - (iii) Adam's guilt was put upon us.
 - (c) Romans 5:12
 - (i) Death was imputed to all men.
 - 1. We got it from Adam.
 - (d) Sin was imputed to us through Adam.
 - (3) Our sin was imputed to Jesus.
 - (a) This is what the Gospel is all about.
 - (b) Romans 4:25
 - (i) Jesus was delivered for our offenses.
 - (c) 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - (i) Jesus is the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.
 - (ii) God did not make Jesus a sinner; God made Him to be sin for us.
 - (4) Adam's sin was put on us, our sin was put on Jesus, and Jesus carried our sins to the cross.
- iii) Leviticus 16:1-10
- (1) This passage tells of the ritual of the scapegoat.
 - (a) In Old Testament times, God gave many pictures and illustrations of salvation.
 - (2) Two goats would be brought to the door of the tabernacle.
 - (a) One goat would be slain.
 - (i) This goat pictures the Lord Jesus on the cross.
 - (b) Aaron, the High Priest, would lay his hands on the head of the live goat and confess the sins of the people upon the head of that goat, called the scapegoat.
 - (c) The scapegoat would then be led out into the wilderness never to return, picturing our sins being carried away by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
 - (d) When Aaron laid his hands on the head of that goat, the sins of the people of Israel were being placed (imputed, charged, and

reckoned) upon the head of the goat, picturing our sins being laid upon the Lord Jesus.

iv) Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us.

(1) Romans 4:3

(a) This is the grace that Abraham discovered.

3) THE GRACE THAT DAVID DESCRIBED (ROMANS 4:6-8)

a) Romans 4:6-8

i) As the people of that time would read this letter, they would think of Abraham as the greatest of saints and David, perhaps, as the greatest of sinners.

b) David had committed a terrible, egregious sin.

i) David had committed adultery, and in an effort to try to cover that adultery, he had committed murder.

ii) David had broken God's commandments and was worthy of death, but God brought him to a place of repentance.

c) David received the grace of God and wrote a Psalm telling about it.

i) Psalm 32:1-2

(1) This is the Psalm that Paul quotes in Romans 4:7-8.

ii) There was nothing David could do; his case was hopeless apart from God's amazing grace.

(1) Romans 4:6

(a) David deserved death and was hopeless, and God put on his account righteousness.

d) This is how David describes that righteousness:

i) Iniquity is forgiven.

(1) Romans 4:7

(2) In order for God to forgive our iniquity, God has to pay the price.

(a) There are no free pardons in Heaven.

(3) For any sin to be forgiven, the one who does the forgiving is the one who bears the penalty.

(4) Someone wrote these words, "I owed a debt I could not pay. Jesus paid a debt He did not owe."

ii) Sins are covered.

(1) Romans 4:7

(2) When God forgives, He forgets.

(3) Micah 7:19

(4) Isaiah 38:17

(5) Psalm 103:12

(a) We can measure North Pole to South Pole, but we can't measure East to West.

(i) It just goes on and on and on.

(6) Not only are our iniquities forgiven, but our sin is covered; it is gone.

iii) Our account is clean.

- (1) Romans 4:8
 - (a) When we get saved, God will never put sin on our account again.
 - (2) This does not mean that we won't sin again.
 - (3) Some people have the idea that if they are living right when they die, then they will go to Heaven.
 - (a) If this is what they are counting on, then they are on their way to Hell.
 - (b) They need to understand what sin is.
 - (i) James 4:17
 - (ii) Romans 14:23
 - (iii) Proverbs 24:9
 - (c) Never think that your goodness will get you to Heaven.
 - (4) This does not mean that we can sin and get by with it.
 - (a) God will carry us to the woodshed; He will chasten us.
 - (i) Hebrews 12:6
 - (b) This is why we need to keep a short account with God.
 - (5) If God put sin on our account, then we would have to get saved all over again.
- 4) THE GRACE THAT PAUL DISCLOSES (ROMANS 4:9-11)
- a) "The circumcision" refers to the Jews.
 - b) Romans 4:9-11
 - i) In this passage, Paul is talking to Gentiles.
 - ii) Paul is saying that the Gospel is not just for Jews, but it's for everybody.
 - c) Salvation doesn't come by ritual.
 - i) Romans 4:11
 - (1) Circumcision was a Jewish ritual; it was a sign and a seal.
 - (2) Abraham was saved before this sign and seal.
 - ii) We are saved before baptism.
 - (1) Mark 16:16
 - (2) If you say that you have to be baptized in order to be saved, then you take the "whosoever" out of the Bible.
 - (a) A person in the desert couldn't be saved because of no water.
 - (b) A person on an airplane couldn't be saved because there is no place to baptize him.
 - (3) Acts 16:31
 - d) Salvation is received.
 - i) Acts 10:47
 - (1) They had already received the gift of the Holy Ghost before they were baptized.
 - ii) Salvation is not by ritual, it's not by resolve, it is by reception.
 - (1) You just receive God's amazing grace.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There will be no boasters in Heaven, only those who have trusted the grace of God.
- b) Would you like to be saved today?
- c) Surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and ask Him to come into your heart.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16