

## Do You Believe God?

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1992

### Romans 4:1-8

*What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*

I want you to open your Bible with me today, to the Book of Romans Chapter 4: verse 3. The title of this message is: “Do You Believe God?” I want to talk to you today, very frankly, very plainly and very personally. I am asking you this question, “Do you believe God?”

Paul asked this question first: In Romans 4, the chapter that you are looking at, in verse one, Paul asks this question, “*What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?*” What has Abraham found? I will tell you this; he found justification before God. Abraham was justified, he was declared not guilty. His sins were remitted. His sins were forgiven and his sins were put away and pardoned. He found justification and was justified before God.

Abraham found acceptance with God. I do know that. Abraham found acceptance with God. He is called the friend of God. The scripture says, “*God spoke with Abraham as a man speaks to a friend. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed.*” So, Abraham walked with God. He found acceptance with God.

Thirdly, what hath Abraham found? He found righteousness, and holiness. He found true holiness and true righteousness in God’s sight. It wasn’t in the sight of the church, or man, your neighbor, your friend or yourself, but it was in the sight of God’s holiness and God’s righteousness. He found righteousness and he had a perfect holiness and a perfect righteousness, imputed, reckoned, and charged.

In this Chapter Four of Romans, these words are used about 10 or 11 times. The words are counted, imputed and reckoned. Abraham had charged to him, imputed to him, and reckoned to him by God, in God’s sight, righteousness and holiness.

Abraham was a sinner like you and me. *“Abraham was a man of like passions,”* just like you and me. Abraham lived on the earth. Abraham sinned. He was flesh. He was frail flesh and yet, he walked with God. He had righteousness and holiness in God’s sight. That is what he had. He was accepted of God. He was justified before God.

God could look upon Abraham and see no sin. How in this world, did Abraham, who was a sinner like you and me, find such treasure? How did he find it and where did he find it? Who gave it to him? How did he find justification before God and not be guilty? He could say, “I have no sin, I have holiness in God’s sight and God accepted me.” God walked with him, and talked with him as a man talks with his friends.

How do you find this before a Holy God? The apostle Paul answers it in verse three. This is where I told you to turn, Romans 4:3. He answers this question. He says, *“What saith the scriptures? What shall we say then, that Abraham hath found?”* He has found holiness, righteousness, acceptance, and justification with God.

*“What saith the scriptures?”* That is all you have to go by is the scriptures. The scripture says, *“Abraham believed God.”* It doesn’t say that Abraham joined the church, Abraham tithed, Abraham kept the Sabbath Day, or Abraham wore certain clothes. The scripture does not say that Abraham counted beads or Abraham went to a confessional or was baptized. It doesn’t say that Abraham had an experience, or Abraham went to an old fashion altar, it says *“Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.”* He had justification, acceptance and holiness. He believed God. That is it! Abraham believed God.

Do you believe God? I’m not asking you if you believe that there is a God. *“The fool has said in his heart that there is no God.”* You’re not a fool. I’m not asking you if you believe that there is a God. *“The devil believes there is a God and trembles.”* I’m not asking you if you believe in God.

I hear people say, “Well, I believe in the Bible.” Yes, but they don’t believe the Bible. I am not asking you if you believe in God or if there is a God, what I am asking you is this, “Do you believe God? Do you believe Him? It is not believing about Him or in Him, or if there is a Him, do you believe Him?”

You see; God has been pleased to reveal Himself. He has been pleased to reveal His will, His covenant, His purpose, Himself, His mercy, and His salvation. He has been pleased to reveal Himself. A man can know God, you know. Eternal life is to know God. A man really can know God because God has not left Himself without a witness. He has revealed Himself.

There are two ways in which God has revealed Himself. One way, is by His Word and the other is by His Son. That is right! It is by His Word and by His Son. The Lord gave us His Word. That is what the Bible is, the Word of God. *“Thus saith the Lord.”* All scripture is God breathed. All scripture is given by inspiration of God because God breathed it. It is profitable. *“It is profitable for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness.”*

The Word didn't come by the will of man in old time. *“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”* Our Lord Jesus Christ said in John 17, *“I have given them Thy Word and they have received it.”* Do you believe God's Word?

Everybody has a Bible. Do you believe it? That is what I am asking you, do you believe it? Is it just a Book of Proverbs or a scrapbook where you keep locks of hair, old pressed flowers, photographs, or old poems that you like? Do you really believe God's Word? Is it God's Word and do you believe it?”

Isaiah said, *“If they speak not according to God's Word it is because there is no light in them.”* So, God has given us His Word and I believe the Word of God. Abraham believed the Word of God. *“He believed that God would do everything that He promised.”* God spoke to Abraham and he believed His Word.

The Lord God has been pleased to send His Son into the world. He has given us His Word and He has given us His Son. The scripture says, *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners, spake to our fathers by the prophets, (by His Word). “Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son.”* Actually, His Son came into the world and spoke to us. He said, *“I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest me.”*

You see, Christ said, *“No man hath seen God at anytime. The only Begotten Son hath declared Him.”* Turn to First John 5:20, I just love this verse. I want you to look at it and listen to it, *“We know that the Son of God hath come and hath given us an understanding that we may know God that is true and that we are in Him that is true, even in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and this is eternal life.”* That is what I'm saying and that is what I am asking, “Do you believe God? Do you believe the way that God has chosen to reveal Himself?”

I know the heavens declare the glory of God. I know that the stars, the sun, the moon, and the things that are made, declare the wisdom, glory and power of God. David said, *“When I consider the heavens, the things which Thou hast made, what is man that Thou art mindful of him?”* Listen, there is only way you can find out God's relationship with

you. There is only one way you can find out if God will forgive sin and God will show mercy to the guilty. There is only one way you can find out whether God will pardon, and whether God intends to save. The answer is not looking to the sun, moon and stars; it is looking at His Word or at His Son.

You can't know the mercy of God, the justice of God, the righteousness of God, the purpose of God, the will of God and the Holiness of God by looking at the stars. They are too impersonal. You find by God's Word what He says about Himself. You find what He says about you and me, what He says about mercy and what He says about His Son who came to reveal Him. He said, "*He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.*"

You see Christ in His compassion, yet you see Christ in His judgment. You see Christ in His love and His grace, yet you see Christ in His Holiness and exactness. So, the Father is revealed by the Son. "*He hath given us an understanding.*"

My friends, this is the very essence of salvation and this is the substance of eternal life, which is to believe God. "*Abraham believed God.*" He believed Him. He believed His Word and He believed His Son. You're not to believe just that there is a God, or believe about God but you are to believe Him.

Let me give you an example. Do you remember when Paul was out on a ship? A storm had risen, the wind was blowing, the waves were high and the ship was about to sink. The men wanted to get off that ship. They felt that they stood a better chance out there in the waves, hanging onto a board than they would staying on this ship and going down with it. Paul said, "*Sirs, be of good cheer, there stood by me this night, the angel of the Lord, whose I am and whom I serve, he said to me, Paul, not one person will be lost.*" The ship will be lost but not one person. Did He say, "Sirs, I believe there is a God?" Did He say, "Sirs, I believe in God?" No he didn't! He said, "Sirs, I believe God that it shall be exactly as He told me."

Do you see what I am saying? Do you see the difference? I really believe it; so we'll stay on the ship. We don't move; we wait on God. "*I believe it shall be exactly as He told me.*" That is what I am saying. True faith is the essence of it, and the substance of it. It is in the heart, truthfully, that effects the actions, that affects the walk, which affects the responses, and affects the experience. It starts with this, "*I believe God.*"

I believe His Word, I believe His Son. That is it! That was demonstrated in Egypt when God said to Moses, "*I'm coming through at midnight. He said that the first born in every home would die. He told Moses to kill a lamb, roast it with fire, eat the flesh and put the blood on the door. When I come to the land, and see the blood, I will pass over you.*"

Those who believed God's Word put blood on the door and they were spared. Those who didn't put blood on the door, died. It was a matter of believing.

Is this not true, demonstrated by Rahab the harlot when God was going to destroy the city of Jericho? She hid the spies, the men of God. She said, *"I know God is with you and I know that God is going to take the land."* She said, *"Will you spare me?"* "God says for you to put a scarlet line out the window. Hang it out the window. When we come to the city, you and your family stay in the house and do not go outside. If you go outside, you are done for, so stay in the house. Put red line out the window." She believed Him.

Preacher, how do you know that she believed Him? She put the red line out the window. She stayed in the house and she was spared. She believed His Word. That was it, she believe Him!

It is also true of Lot. God said, *"Flee the city, I am going to destroy the city of Sodom and Gomorrah. Don't look back."* Lot and his two daughters fled the city and didn't look back. They believed God. His wife turned and looked back. She perished.

Faith is to believe God. I am trying to show you that it is not believing that there is a God and believing certain things about God, it is actually, to believe His Word and to believe Him. I'm going to be honest now, don't leave me. Today's religion is full of excess, with its emotionalism, and you know what I am talking about. I see some of these programs where all these folks are stomping, yelling, screaming, waving their arms, running up and down the isles, and blowing in peoples faces. They are falling out into the arms of other folks. There are outward demonstrations, and so-called experiences. There is tremendous wealth about it and confusion with it. It troubles and disturbs honest people, concerning true faith. There is even a different language that they use.

I'm telling you this; *"Salvation is to believe God in the heart."* You see; faith is an individual, and a personal heart experience. It is a principle given by the Holy Spirit in the soul and in the heart where a man believes God. He believes God's Word. He believes God in his soul, his mind and in his heart. He believes God!

The apostle Paul said, *"We are the circumcision who worship God in Spirit,"* not in demonstration, showmanship, excess, and emotionalism. We worship God in Spirit. We rejoice in Christ Jesus. We don't rejoice in ourselves, we rejoice in Christ Jesus. We don't rejoice in the fun, but in Christ Jesus, *"And we have no confidence in the flesh."*

You see; faith is not dependant on atmosphere. These folks don't act like that at work. They don't act like that in the kitchen. They don't act like that in the den when they are

sitting around with their friends. It is just when they come to this atmosphere of religion. They are pumped up by music, pumped up by some religious leader, or pumped up by some promoter. I call them, "Cheerleaders."

Faith is not dependant on atmosphere created by music, men and methods. Faith believes God at all times. Most people are in church for two hours a week. They are there with all their showmanship, emotionalism, and excess. I want you to listen to me; there are 168 hours in a week, what do you do the other 166 hours in the week?

I will tell you what faith does in all of the 168 hours. It doesn't matter if it is in the kitchen, in the home, on the job, on the street or on the creek bank, fishing. You can be at a ballgame or down at the church, but faith walks with God. Faith believes God. It is not up yonder one moment and down here another moment. Faith believes God. Faith does not need to be recharged constantly by music and religious leaders and scolding.

I hear these preachers all week, scolding and browbeating people. They are scolding them and chastising them because they don't do this and don't do that. They tell each other that they can't get the power. *"My faith doesn't stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* It is not my power; it is His power. Faith believes God.

I don't have to shout or scream and wave my arms and carry on publicly to believe God. I believe God. I drove up to this studio tonight, I believe God. When I sit down to eat my supper tonight, I gave thanks. I said, "Thank you Lord, You gave me the food and I appreciate it." I came walking in here, and sat down in a chair, waiting for the cameraman and waiting for the studio lights and program to begin. Now, when I am up here preaching  
I believe God.

Do I put on a different voice and a different frame of mind and attitude because I am in front of you and in front of a camera? God help me if I do. Have mercy on my hypocritical soul if I change one-iota from standing over here to standing over there. I'm telling you the truth! Faith believes God.

Faith believes God publicly and privately. Faith isn't dependent on atmosphere. It doesn't have to be recharged constantly. Our faith doesn't stand in the tactics, methods, persuasions, and psychology of super-rich evangelists, revivalists and promoters of self. That is what it boils down to.

If God doesn't have mercy on this country and turn it around in reference to Christ and the gospel, the Bible and God, we're gone and our children are gone. God is not in this

carnival of religion. God is not in these rich, religious, prosperous organizations and all of these things. God is in Christ!

Every servant of the Lord throughout the Bible was a plain man, simple man, poor man, down to earth men and sinners saved by the grace of God. They recognized the needs of people. They recognized the grace of God. They recognized the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. They preached to the people from the heart, in love. He was not trying to build a kingdom for himself or to attain vainglory, praise and prosperity for himself. God have mercy on them, but He is not going to.

Paul said, *"I know whom I have believed."* Believing is not in whom, not about whom, I know Him. I'm asking you the question tonight, or today, do you believe God? It does come down to this; do you believe God?

What hath Abraham found? He found acceptance, justification and righteousness. How did he find it? He believed God. He didn't have a television set. He didn't have a church building and he didn't have an old-fashioned mourner's bench. He didn't have to have anybody with him, he walked with God and he believed God.

He walked on the hillside and he walked on the mountain. He also walked in the valley in trying times. He walked into battle, walked through the field and walked among his cattle and sheep, but he believed God.

It comes down to this, I believe what God says about creation. I believe that God created the heavens and the earth. What He says about creation beats anything that I have read today. I believe what God says about Himself. I believe God is Sovereign, Almighty, Eternal, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient, don't you? I bow before God, the Lord God Almighty.

He's not impotent, He's not failing and He doesn't have a plan that He hopes will work. He has a plan that He knows is going to work. *"He doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth. None can stay His hand or say unto Him, what doest Thou?"* Is anything too hard for God?

I believe what God says about men, about me, about you and about our fall. I believe that. I believe, *"By one man sin entered this world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men for all sinned."* We're dead in sin. We're helpless, hopeless, unable and unwilling to come to God.

I believe what God says about His law. *“Cursed is everyone that continueth not in every jot and tittle of the law to do it. The soul that sinneth shall surely die.”* I believe what God says about His justice. I believe God what He says about His covenant mercy in Christ. He says, “I’ve made a covenant, an everlasting covenant in Christ Jesus, whereby I will redeem a people. I’ll put away their sins, remember them no more. I’ll give them a new heart and a new mind so that they will love Me. I’ll never leave them, and they will never leave Me.” I believe that!

David died believing it. These are the last words that David spoke on this earth; *“God has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure. This is my salvation and all my desire.”*

I believe what God says about the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe He is God and I believe He is man. I believe that He is the God-man. I believe that He is the only Saviour, the only Advocate, the only Mediator, and the only Prophet, Priest and King. *“His blood cleanseth us from all sin.”* His death is effectual, particular, and sufficient. He put away the sins of all who believe on Him. He died for our sins. He was buried and rose again and He ever liveth to make intercession for us and He is coming again to receive His people unto Himself. I believe that, I believe God!

I believe what God says about the resurrection. Someday we will all arise in His likeness. I believe what He says about the exultation of Christ. I believe like the Roman Centurion. He brought his son to Christ. The boy was very, very sick. He said, “Lord, can you do anything for him?” The Lord said, *“If you can believe, all things are possible to them that believe.”* Can you believe? He said, *“Lord, I believe, I do believe, help thou mine unbelief.”* That is where I am, are you? I believe His Word, I believe His Son and I pray, *“Lord, help thou mine unbelief.”* Increase my faith!

You see; if you will read this Fourth Chapter, verses 10, 11 and so on, it declares that salvation is by faith. Abraham later on, was circumcised. Abraham left his father’s house. He defended the kings, and brought Lot back. Abraham gave the best land to Lot. He even sacrificed his son. Now, wait a minute! When was he justified? He was justified when he believed God. He did all these things because he did believe God. *“His faith was counted for righteousness.”*

That is what I am asking you, do you believe God? That is where it starts and that is where it ends. Believing God!