

The Promise Through Faith Resting on Grace

Romans 4:13-17 ¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

❖ Introduction

- **These verses teach us a great many new things today**
 - They build on Paul’s teaching that:
 - Us being righteous is only attained through the avenue of Faith
- **These verses are filled with Hope and Assurance in God**
- **They are also filled with very natural application...**
 - When I say application...
 - I mean... they should very easily lead to you applying the truth of what is written
 - Taking it and applying it to you soul this morning...
 - And having that feed your joy
 - And feed your desire for God
 - And feed your service toward God
- **So... let’s dig deep into God’s Word this morning**
 - And let’s see what He has for us to feast on today

❖ Outline

- Review and In Between Verses
- A Brief Expository Overview
- **1) We Have an Inheritance**
- **2) Our Inheritance Rests on Grace through Faith**
- **3) The Inheritance is to all who share Abraham’s Faith**
- **4) The One Who Gives Life and Existence is Our Absolute Assurance**
- **5) The Wrath of God is as Certain as the Promised Inheritance**
- **Response**

❖ Review and Cover of verses 9-12

- **Last Week:** We looked at the huge stack of books filled with pages of my sin filled day
 - And we looked at God’s Word about this...
 - And the promise to have my pages wiped clean
 - For me to take on the righteous nature of Jesus
 - And to have every sin I have ever committed... covered
 - And forgiven... and not counted...
 - **As a matter of fact...** they are cast away from God as far as the east is from the west
 - And this is all brought about through the avenue of Faith
 - **Then.... Our outline last week was:**
 - **1) The Argument: What did Abraham gain according to works?**
 - **2) Answer: What do the Scriptures Say?**

- **3) The Explanation: Works vs Faith**
- **4) Another Example: David**
- **5) The Gift: Sins Forgiven, covered, not counted**

➤ **The In Between Verses:**

- **Essentially...** there is a lot in there about circumcision
 - And circumcision was the outward sign of the covenant b/w God and his people
- **And Paul is making the point that Abraham was made right in the eyes of God...**
 - Before He ever received the sign of the covenant (which is circumcision)
 - And the point is that Paul wants to make sure they understand Righteousness is by Faith
 - And not because a person has the sign of covenant...
 - ◆ Like circumcision... or for us... baptism

➤ **Why is that important to you?**

- Because... it means that being declared right with God is not a matter of birth
- Nor is it a matter of an outward sign
- **Rather... it is matter of the heart toward God in Faith...**
 - And that Faith is something that every person needs to be saved from the wrath of God
 - Without that inner heart of Faith... no man can be saved...

❖ **Brief Expository Overview**

- ¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world

➤ A Promise

➤ To be an Heir

➤ Of the World

➤ How did it come to us?

- **did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.**

➤ **Then Paul Gives an Explanation**

- He is still arguing his point here...
- Look at what he says
 - ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

➤ **Paul's Explanation:**

- 1) If it is by the law... Faith is null and the promise is void (expound)
- 2) The Law Brings Wrath
- 3) Where there is no law there is no transgression

➤ **Then Paul continues to explain why faith has to be the avenue for righteousness**

➤ ¹⁶That is why it depends on faith,

- so... "it" which is the promise...
- It depends upon faith...
- **Calvin said of Faith in his commentary on Romans**

◆ "a sure knowledge of God's mercy"

- There is a certainty that a person of true faith has...
- And there faith is in the mercy of God in Jesus Christ
- Their Faith is not in some institutionalized church ceremony
- Or in some sort of works idea
- They don't put any faith in their penance or deeds
- Their certainty is in the mercy of God in Jesus Christ...

➤ **Next Paul let's us go a little deeper behind the scenes of how we are made right with God**

- **in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—**

- **And He says that the promise REST on GRACE**
 - ◆ In my opinion this really is the final answer...
 - ◆ We may question faith and if faith needs works...
 - ◆ **But you can not question Grace...**
 - Grace is the unearned favor of God...
 - And that is what the whole system of salvation rests on...
 - Without Grace... you would not be allowed to be saved through Faith
 - Grace is God giving you good even though you do not deserve it...
 - Then He continues and tells you who it for
- **not only to the adherent of the law**
- **but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham,**
 - ◆ **who is the father of us all,**
 - Now... there is more to unpack here...
 - He is not saying that law keeping helps a person attain the promise...
 - **Rather... He is essentially saying it is to the Jew and the Gentile..**
 - The person who had the law and the person who did not...
 - Even under the law people were still saved by Faith...
 - They were never saved by their law keeping...
 - They were saved by the mercy of God through temporary sacrifice
 - Pointing toward the true sacrifice of Jesus...
- **He Reminds us that Abraham is our Forerunner...**
- **¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” —**
 - **in the presence of the God in whom he believed,**
 - **who gives life to the dead**
 - **and calls into existence the things that do not exist.**
 - ◆ So... Abraham is a type... He is the father
 - Not in the descendent sense... rather by his example...
 - The example of Faith...
 - ◆ Paul then... makes the point that the promise was given by:
 - ◆ The Absolutely TrustWorthy God
 - And this God makes the dead alive again
 - And He brings things into being that didn't exist...
- **So... that is a brief exposition....**
 - I wanted to give an overview of the text and then dig into some major truths
 - That are placed within the text...

❖ 1) We Have an Inheritance

- This is exciting...!!!! Look at the verse:
 - **¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world**
- **A Promise to be an Heir**
 - **Why is this important? Why should you listen?**
 - Well... for one... this is God's Word...
 - For another reason... you may want to make sure you are part of this inheritance
 - **This promise was made to Abraham and his offspring...**
 - **2 questions: 1) what is the promise 2) who are the offspring**
 - **1) The promise is scattered about Genesis**
 - **Genesis 22:18 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his**

enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

- ◆ The promise was: a people, a land, a blessing of the entire world, and a redeemer (hidden in the text to many)
- **2) who (are or is) his offspring...**
 - Well... the Bible explains this...
 - But you have to follow me here....
- **Ill give you a short answer¹...** then a few verses from Galatians² where Paul explains this...
 - Then Ill summarize³ what He is saying for you...
- **1) Short Answer:** The offspring is **Jesus**... yet it is also for those **IN** Jesus
 - The word offspring here in Romans is **singular**... and it is sometimes referred to as “**seed**”
 - ◆ There is a possibility of it meaning more than one... but Paul clears this up
 - But... our short Answer is that the offspring here is in reference to Jesus... but also to those in Christ...
- **2) Galatians:**
 - Galatians 3:16 ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.
 - ◆ Ok... so here... we see the offspring is certainly singular in Paul’s mind
 - ◆ And the answer to who He is referencing is: Christ
 - ◆ So... the promise is given to Jesus... so Jesus inherits all things... but... continue
 - Galatians 3:26-29 ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.
 - ◆ In Christ... we are sons of God...
 - But... this is through the avenue of Faith
 - ◆ Does not matter what family you were born into
 - ◆ If you are Christ’s... then you are considered an offspring of Abraham...
 - And therefore... you have a promise from God... that you will be His heir
 - So... it comes full circle...
 - It starts with Christ and is given to those in Christ...
- **3) Summary of Paul in Galatians**
 - **First of all... Paul explains the promise to Abraham in Genesis...**
 - ◆ He says... God was referring to Jesus...
 - ◆ He then goes on to say much about the giving of the law...
 - The purpose of the law to be a guardian until Christ came
 - **Finally... He wraps it all up**
 - ◆ By showing us... that all who are of the same faith as Abraham... they are **all** his offspring
 - Abraham is like a pre cursor of those who would have saving Faith...
 - Just like we say... Martin Luther is the Father of the Reformation
 - Doesn’t mean that only his children were reformed
 - Or just like we would say that Socrates is the Father of Philosophy
 - We wouldn’t say... you have to descend from his bloodline to be a philosopher
 - ◆ **He finishes by saying... you are the offspring of Abraham...**
 - But only if you are **in Christ**...
 - And being in Christ means you have put your faith in Him...
 - You are completely convinced of God’s Mercy in Jesus

- **We Have That Established: Those of You Who Are Of The Faith**
 - Well... you are heirs of this inheritance of the World...
- **Now... What is the promise or Inheritance: heir of the world**
 - **Now... if you were short sighted and small minded...**
 - You might stop at the land of Israel or Canaan and say... well there is the inheritance...
 - ◆ Or you may say... we just sit around on clouds forever bored
 - ◆ And we lose our personality... who we are
 - But... it is actually much much larger...
 - ◆ The earthly land of Israel was only a starting point
 - ◆ That was only a partial fulfillment of the promise...
 - **The Promise is not merely a small piece of land in the middle east**
 - A piece of land being fought over for thousands of years
 - A piece of land that many people do not even care about
- **The inheritance is the World....**
 - **What does He mean here?**
 - Well... I must confess that we can not **fully grasp** this here today...
 - Not even close...
 - But we can look into the Word and get an idea...
 - ◆ To get an idea of the breadth and depth of God's promise to us
 - **First... let me assure you... that "the World"**
 - Used here is not the **unredeemed** world
 - It is not the world that we try to **distance** ourselves from...
 - It is not the world in which we are called to be **in** but not **of**
 - That is a different use of this word...
- **The Promise Starts with Jesus**
 - Acts 13:32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has **fulfilled** to us their children by **raising** Jesus,
 - Acts 25:6-8 ⁶ And now I stand here **on trial because of my hope in the promise** made by God to our fathers, ⁷ to which our twelve tribes **hope** to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this **hope** I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God **raises the dead?**
 - **Do you see the promise? Expound on the verse...**
 - ◆ It is Jesus... it is Jesus being raised from the dead...
 - **So... the Promise starts with Jesus**
 - It continues with His resurrection...
 - The promise is Eternal Life in Jesus Christ...
 - For the resurrection means eternal Life for all who believe...
 - ◆ Paul asks... **why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?**
 - ◆ **Jesus gives us the promise in John**
 - John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
 - That is an overview of the promise to those who are like Abraham
 - Those who place their Faith in Jesus...
 - God is just slowly peeling back more layers into what it is:
 - We should believe
 - We will receive from God

- **There is no Promise without Jesus**
 - **He is the promise... and He is how anything else will be enjoyed**
 - **Though Him...**
 - **The promised inheritance continues...**
 - But let's make sure we understand...
 - ◆ There is no inheritance except through Jesus...
 - ◆ It is not like we get a little spot in Malibu we can call our own...
 - **Tthere is much more to add to the promised inheritance...**
 - ◆ It is only given and enjoyed through Jesus
- **The Bible has a few things to say about our Inheritance:**
 - **First..** an heir is someone who has a legal claim to inherit an estate...
 - **Second** this Word "World" is where we get our word Cosmos from...
 - Kosmos
 - So... lets start thinking a little bigger... Now... think a little bigger than that...
 - Now... you have only just begin to scratch the surface..
 - ◆ Remembering that it all begins with and flows through Jesus...
 - ◆ The Bible says things like this:
- **The Bible's Instruction on our Promised Inheritance (That starts with Jesus)**
 - Just want you to see one or two things from each verse.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? ...³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels?**
 - We will be judging the world and even the angels.
 - **Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**
 - We will inherit the earth... hmmm what does he means here
 - **Matthew 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions**
 - His faithful servants will be set over all his possessions
 - **Matthew 25:23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'**
 - We will enter into joy... A joy from our master...
 - ◆ I do not know what this is... but...
 - ◆ **Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
 - I would assume... we will experience this fully
 - Whereas now... we are just constantly grasping for the fullness of this verse
 - **1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" —**
 - Unimaginable... God has an inheritance we can not even imagine...
 - If you have thought it up... then you still haven't gotten far enough yet!
 - **2 Tim 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him**
 - We will reign with Jesus...
 - **Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.**
 - There is a city prepared for His children
 - **John 14:2-3 ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**
 - He is preparing rooms for us even now...

- Revelation 2:26-27 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.
 - We will have authority over nations...
- Revelation 3:21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.
 - We will sit down on the throne with Jesus... to reign and rule...
 - How can this be... God has made a way
- Revelation 5:10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
 - We will be a special kingdom of priests to God... and we will reign over the earth
- Revelation 21:1¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
 - There is a making of a new heaven and new earth for God to dwell with His people...
- Revelation 21:3³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
 - God will be with us...
 - And here is the greatest part of our inheritance... it isn’t the things...
 - Rather... it will be God himself
- 1 John 3:2 teaches us “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He appears we will be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.
 - We will inherit a body much like that of Jesus after His resurrection
 - We will have some sort of body much like the glorified body of Jesus
- Philippians 3:21 “Jesus will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
 - Our bodies will be transformed...
 - Matt 13:43 says “The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father
 - ◆ There will be something magnificent about us...
 - Again... Daniel spoke of this as well
 - Daniel 12:3 says “Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

➤ **There is More:**

- Isaiah 60:2-22² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
 - God’s people have a glorious future.
 - This is talking about the New Jerusalem...this new City where God will dwell.
 - All nations will come into it.
- ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
 - This will be a time of GREAT rejoicing.
 - There will be seas, and I assume ships...
 - Wealth will be brought into the city.
- ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of

the LORD. ⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.

- There will be animals
- People from lands, and people from islands will come and worship God.
- Redeemed people will travel this New Earth serving God...completely..not weakly like we do today.

- ⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? ⁹ For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful.

- This new city will be made beautiful
- There will be rulers, and civilizations during this time.
- It will be very Earthy, yet Heavenly

- ¹¹ Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.

- The same thing John says in Rev 21...these big pearly gates...made of one pearl.

- ¹⁵ Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. (generation to generation)

- This is an eternal age, and eternal place God will make,..this will not end.

- ¹⁸ Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.

- Everlasting Peace

- ¹⁹ The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

- Same thing that John says...

- We see God dwelling with man

- ²¹ Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. ²² The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.

- Everyone will be redeemed people...no evil person or thing will be around.

- And He is going to do this quickly...and it will be done.

➤ **Remember that City I spoke of:**

- **New Jerusalem**

- ◆ Revelation 21:2 ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- **A walled city**

- ◆ With gates that never close

- ◆ It is on a hill

- ◆ Even if there were invaders they could not invade this city

- The walls are too high and too thick

- 72 yards thick...almost a football field thick.

- **Its dimensions**

- ◆ 1400 miles in length, width and height.

- ◆ Almost certainly literal here, it even says it is measured in man' measurements

- ◆ This city is big enough to stretch from Canada to Mexico, and from the California Border to the Appalacian Mts.

- ◆ **The height is amazing**
 - Some say they think the buildings inside the city stretch this high...
 - Remember, it is a city.
 - Some say the city may be in the shape of a pyramid, not a cube...that does not matter
- ◆ **If the city had levels, and I am sure to some extent it would**
 - If you give each level 12 feet, we are looking at 600,000 stories.
 - I am just showing you this so you can see billions of people could live in this city alone.
- ◆ Probably could travel as easy vertically as horizontally, since I see no way gravity could hinder us in this day.
- **The gates**
 - ◆ Will stay open, and an angel will be at every gate

❖ **2) Our Inheritance Rests on Grace through Faith**

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❖ **3) The Inheritance is to all who share Abraham's Faith**

- How could we define Faith?
 - John Calvin wrote that faith is "a sure knowledge of God's mercy"

❖ **4) The One Who Gives Life and Existence is Our Absolute Assurance**

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❖ **5) The Wrath of God is as Certain as the Promised Inheritance**

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❖ **Response:** Spend a Little Time on Application Today

- Absolute Exaltation
- Absolute Hope
- Absolute Faith
- Absolute Boldness