

The Promise Through Faith Resting on Grace 2

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

❖ Outline

- Review
- **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

❖ 1) We Have an Inheritance

- **We Looked at:**
 - A Promise to be an Heir... and heir of the World
 - It Starts with Jesus... His resurrection... Eternal Life gained in Him
 - Then we looked at more details of ruling and reigning and filled with joy
 - And shining like the stars, inheriting the earth, being over all His possessions
 - The mansions, or rooms, a new body... and a city
- **There is More:**
 - Isaiah 60:2-22 ² 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. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ A 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. 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. 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. 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) 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. 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. ²⁰Your 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. ²¹Your 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. ²²The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.

➤ **Ok... so that wraps up point 1: “We have an inheritance”**

- I just wanted to finish it up... so you will Hope in your future
- Also, so we could continue into our next major truth found in these verses

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

- ¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring

➤ **This is Really Deep.... And it's really wide... and deserving of much time and exaltation**

- Let's look at this verse... and then spend a lot of time digging into what Paul means by:
 - Rest on grace

➤ **1) It Depends on Faith...**

- **We have looked in detail on this last week...**
- **“It” is in reference to the promise...**
 - The promise is eternal Life in Jesus Christ...
 - Remember:
 - ◆ We see from Scripture that the promise starts with Jesus
 - ◆ He promises the resurrection from the dead
 - ◆ There is no promise without Jesus
 - ◆ And the promise continues by us being promised to be heirs of the world
 - And we learned we will reign and rule with God...
 - And be given more than we can imagine...
 - And the main thing is that God will be with Us
 - And this eternal Life is so full... it is not just living forever...
 - ◆ Being alive is not necessarily “being alive!”
 - ◆ The promise is for a full and glorious eternal Life filled with the wonder of God...

➤ **1) The Promise Depends on Faith...**

- Why? Why does it **depend** on Faith?
- Follow his explanation...
- **It depends on faith... IN ORDER THAT...**
 - The promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed

➤ **2) The Promise Rests on Grace...**

- **A couple really interesting things are going on here in this verse...**
- **1) One... we see that for grace to be grace... it needs an avenue to get to the person...**
 - This is where **faith** comes in...
 - **Meaning:**
 - ◆ Grace is Free... it is a free thing from God...
 - ◆ But, God's grace needs to be **“accessed”** so to speak
 - ◆ **But, grace can not be accessed by any means that would:**
 - Allow for a person to deserve it...
 - If this were the case... then it is no longer grace...
 - Grace by definition is something unearned... even in the smallest of efforts
 - **Therefore grace needs a key... or an avenue**

◆ **Faith is the avenue by which a person is saved... while not being an outward work...**

- So, Paul says... This is why the promise depends on faith...
 - He says it **has** to depend on faith
 - And the reason it depends on faith is so the promise can rest on grace....
- **Rest on Grace...**
 - Some versions say:
 - In accordance to grace

◆ **Follow the meaning of this little greek word “kata”**

- We read it to say it “rests on” grace
- It is a good translation to say that it is in accordance to grace
- Faith is in accordance with grace...
- It agrees with grace... it is in harmony with grace...

• **Grace can't be grace by just any means...**

- ◆ Grace isn't grace by birthright, or skin color, or gender, or natural abilities, or good works
- ◆ Grace is grace by Faith....

➤ **Let me Give you an Illustration to explain this best I can...**

➤ **Illustration: Faith is the Key into the Vault**

- **Let's say there is a bank vault filled with loads and loads of cash and amazing treasures...**
 - There are rare coins and jewels... there are rare comics and toys and sports memorabilia
 - Just filled up with valuable and interesting things...
- **Let's say... it is in the most secure bank ever imagined...**
 - Layer upon layer of security... it is impossible to get in and out of
 - A writer for a movie could not even concoct a crazy fiction about breaking in...
- **Let's say... this great and valuable treasure is for you...**
 - It sits there ready for you... it is yours to have...
- **Let's say... there is a key to getting in... a special key that you must get from one person (Tom)...**
 - This one person has the key you need
 - He is a very specific Tom... not just any Tom... but the one that meets the criteria
 - You can test him by fingerprints...
 - ◆ And you are given all the information on locating Him...
 - ◆ There is nothing to it...
 - So... for you to access it... you have to get the key from Tom
 - You have to bring Tom with you...
 - And you get it all...
- **You do not have to pay for it...**
 - You do not have to work for it...
 - **It is for your enjoyment if you simply get the key from the one person...**
- **How would you go about getting the treasure?**
 - Would you try to bribe the guards with some money?
 - Would you say... do you know who I am... I am a son of the builders of the bank?
 - Would you try to drill in from under ground or fly in from above?
 - Would you try to drill into the vault and take what is there?
- **Would you?**
 - Would you use your own key?
 - Would you go to a different person with their key
 - Would you maybe find another person named Tom...
 - Or maybe just say... Hey... this guy is named Tom when it is Sally...

- **Well... you could certainly try all those ways...**
 - But none of them will work...
 - As a matter of fact... they will bring about prison time...
 - If you try to break in... you are condemned to prison
 - If you bring the wrong key... you will perish
 - If you bring the wrong person... you are cast out...
- **Of course... we would find Tom... the real Tom... and you would bring the key...**
 - You would go the correct route...
- **Now: The Vault is the Grace of God....**
 - The key is faith
 - And Tom is Jesus....
 - The Treasure is the promises of God...
 - To access the grace of God...
 - you must have Faith in Jesus Christ and therefore receive the promise!!!!

➤ **3) Grace is the Foundation of the Blessings of God**

- Grace is the **source** of the promises of God
- **Illustration: There is a huge lake filled with grace... And we need access to it...**
 - **Picture** this huge lake filled with grace...
 - ◆ It is a deep and wide as far as the eye can see and deeper than can be imagined...
 - ◆ It is filled with the Grace of God...
 - **Now...** remember that grace is God's unearned favor toward you...
 - ◆ He is just loving and kind to you because He has an abundance of grace...
 - **For** you to receive any mercy or kindness...
 - ◆ It must come from the grace of God...
 - **For** you to be given a promise from God
 - ◆ It must come from his grace...
 - **This** lake of grace is the source of God's good toward you...
 - ◆ It is like an eternal fountain
 - ◆ And this lake of grace is where God's kindness to you originates...
 - **It is like a lake filled with cool fresh water that flows into a village**
 - ◆ The source of their refreshment and health comes from the lake...
 - ◆ They are cleaned by the lake... it is the source of life for them
 - **Now... how do you gain access to this lake of grace?**
 - ◆ Well the scriptures teach us that it must come through
 - ◆ Faith in the one and only Son of God who gave His life for us

➤ **Let me reiterate this for you...**

- **Faith is the avenue to gain the graces of God...**
 - No other way allows grace to be grace... no other way is in accord or agreement with grace
 - Any other way of attempting to access the promises of God...
 - Distorts grace... or attempts to... in theory it would change grace to something else...
 - ◆ But... God's grace remains Grace... it just rejects any other avenues to it

➤ **Let's look at it from the Bible:**

- **Bible teaches us about Grace:**
 - **1) By Grace We are Saved Through Faith: There is no room for Boasting!**
 - ◆ **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - See here that grace does the saving...

- And it saves you through faith
 - And your being saved is not something you do on your own...
 - Rather... we see... it is a gift from God... which is what grace is!!!!
 - So... then works won't get you a gift... they get you wages
 - Works get you judgment from the law
 - So grace is a gift... and now you can not BRAG about your status with God
- **2) We Obtain Access into Grace by Faith**
 - ◆ **Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
 - **What a great way to describe how we get grace from God...**
 - He says we access it by faith
 - Just like we accessed the vault with a key...
 - **Faith obtains access into grace...**
 - There is no mention of any other way to access grace
 - Faith is the great key card to grace
- **3) Grace Must be accessed by Faith... or it isn't Grace**
 - ◆ **Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.**
 - **Here... He just wants to make sure we understand...**
 - The reason grace must be by faith...
 - Is because it would fail to be grace by any other means...
 - **And Grace is the means by which God is glorified**
 - All glory goes to God when grace is involved...
 - It is the perfect system for God to get all glory instead of man
- **4) God's Throne is Grace**
 - ◆ **Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**
 - Here we see that God's throne...
 - The place of authority and rule
 - The place of judgment
 - Is a throne of grace...
 - The very throne of God is a throne of grace...
- **5) God's Grace is in Jesus**
 - ◆ **2 Timothy 2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,**
 - Here... we see God's grace is in Christ Jesus...
 - If you want to find grace... you will only find it in Jesus...
 - Grace is abstract and unattainable without knowing its source
 - Faith does us no good if we do not know where to put out faith...
 - Not only do we find the grace of God in Jesus
- **6) Jesus is the Grace of God**
 - ◆ **Titus 2:11 ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of grace...**
 - The grace of God has appeared and it brought salvation for all people
 - **Jesus is Grace...**
 - Here... we have traced grace to its root... to its beginning...
 - And we see that it is Jesus...
 - The grace of God has appeared...

- Who or what is He talking about...
- I would argue that it is Jesus...

➤ **If you have Jesus... you have everything...**

- Finally... we see how we enter the promises of God

• **7) Jesus is the door to His Grace**

- ◆ **John 10:7-10** ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- ◆ **Notice that Jesus says He is the door to being saved**
 - Being saved is gaining the grace of God
 - And the only way into the pool of grace is through the door
 - And the Door is Jesus...
- ◆ **So... picture this... Jesus is the source of all things right? This shows it...**
 - There is grace in Jesus
 - Jesus is the grace of God...
 - God's grace grants us all the promises of eternal life and God Himself
 - To gain entry to the source of grace (Jesus)
 - Well... you must come through Jesus to get to Jesus!
 - You must come to Him through Faith in
 - Who He is, what He said, and what He did...

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

- **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,**

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

- **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.**

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

❖ **Response**

❖ **Invitation**

- **Any other way of righteousness before God besides grace through faith**
 - And you have to prove your innocence.
 - U must prove your right standing some other way.
- **The problem is that every sin is an infinite sin.**
 - It is far greater in the eyes of God than it is to us.
 - One sin cast the whole world into chaotic rebellion
 - and it would be completely lawless and anarchy
 - without the common grave of God toward mankind.
- **So our one sin is infinitely offensive to God.**
 - And we have hundreds and tens of thousands. Even us "good people"
- **Since God is God He can judge as He pleases. And he can be offended by sin as much as he wants.**
 - But it is actually the true reality of sin to be so offensive and rebellious
 - and condemning and harmful to Gods beautiful creation
- **Therefore, consider the perfect logic and common sense behind:**

- righteousness before God as coming only from a fountain of grace
- paid for by the blood of the Savior God being accessed through faith only.
- **Don't bring your measly works or familial credentials or rights as a human being.**
 - Bring Faith.
- **Faith weeds out the imposters.**
 - True faith is known by God and it is the only key to access the grace of God.
 - Anything besides true faith and you will not be allowed access to God's grace.
- **I assume u may be allowed to present your case to the court**
 - but in the end you will learn u needed complete righteousness.
 - And instead of grace you chose another way.
 - And that way leads to wrath from God.
 - You get wrath cause you didn't trust fully in Jesus for your right standing.
- **In the same way that a key card is read and checked to see if has the right code**
 - your faith will be checked
- **Just like Dna is used to see if u are the child of ur parents or grandparents**
 - The dna of your faith will be checked.
 - Will it pass the test?
 - Will it give you access to the grace of God?
- **Amazingly. If you have genuine faith you will come to see**
 - that it was the grace of God already working in you to give you the faith you needed.
 - That is amazing grace