

The Promise Through Faith Resting on Grace 3

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.

❖ 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

❖ 2) Our Inheritance Rests on Grace through Faith

- ¹⁶ **That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed**
 - expound
- **One thing I wanted to emphasize but may not have last time...**
 - We learned that Faith gets us access to grace in a way that nothing else can...
 - **But, I want you to see how preeminent the grace of God actually is...**
 - The Faith that we do have...
 - That Faith by which we are accounted righteous
 - That Faith that gets us the promise
 - That Faith by which we live
 - ◆ **That Faith is given to us by Grace...**
 - Grace gives us Faith
 - God’s grace brings us the gospel
 - God’s grace brings His Spirit to give us the light of faith to believe
 - This takes “no boasting” to another level
- Verses:
 - **Heb 12:2 says "...Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith". And Rom 12:3 says " ... God has allotted to each a measure of faith."**
 - Expound.... Author

- Given a measure of faith
- Rom 10:17 says " ... faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ."
 - From God's word
- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:44)
 - The father draws...
- It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe...And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." (John 6:63, 65)
 - The spirit gives the life...
 - Some do not believe... why?
 - They do not come unless it is granted him by that Father...
- **Believe Me... this is humbling... this is merciful...**
 - This makes me think... Oh God... How could you have chosen me...
 - Why me? My heart should leap with utter thankfulness

❖ **3) The Inheritance is Guaranteed 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,
- **Only Two Things I Want to Consider Here...**
 - 1) What guarantees the promise?
 - 2) Who Gets the Promise?
- **1) What guarantees the promise? Grace**
 - Remember where this verse is coming from:
 - ¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring... not only...
 - **The Inheritance Depends on Faith that Rests on Grace...**
 - ◆ And this guarantees the inheritance to all the offspring...
 - **Grace Guarantees the promise**
 - Why is this such an important Distinction?
 - ◆ Well... I believe it totally changes the way we view things
 - **Remember... the promise is eternal life in Jesus Christ and all that entails...**
 - ◆ Countless things we can not even imagine....
 - **Only grace guarantees we receive the promises of God...**
 - ◆ And this is important because there is nothing else that can guarantee it with certainty
 - **Illustration:**
 - **You have a large sum of money that you want to put into a bank for security**
 - ◆ You want it to grow with interest...
 - ◆ You want to know that when you go back to the bank to withdraw it...
 - ◆ that the money will be there
 - **You want a bank that can guarantee your deposit**
 - ◆ In our country, our banks are backed by the federal government...
 - ◆ Our government gives assurance that you will get your money
 - ◆ Even if the bank is robbed...
 - **Now, let's say you have your choice b/w banking with a government backed bank**
 - ◆ Or you could invest in First Union Bank of Greece
 - ◆ Well... if you follow the news... you know that Greece is not in the best financial spot

- ◆ It is possible that you put your money in their bank and maybe not get it

- **Which do you choose?**

- ◆ Well... of course... you choose the one with the most stability

- **Grace Guarantees the promise**

- Remember me describing God's grace as this great infinite lake of ever flowing grace?
- God's grace is found in His Infinite Son Jesus Christ...
- God's grace guarantees we receive the promise...
 - ◆ Why? Because it does not depend on us... rather it depends on a Faithful God

- **What Does Not Guarantee the promise?**

- Your Good Works do not, Your name does not
- Your family does not, Your nationality does not
- Your skin color does not, Your church attendance does not

- **God's Grace guarantees the promise...**

- That is the nature of the promise... it is by Faith that rests in grace...

- **Praise God this Morning... Do you see this????**

- You getting the promises do not depend on YOU.... Not on You
- They depend on God... Almighty God...

- **I am not making this up... it is in the scriptures...**

- ◆ **Psalm 138:8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

- God fulfills his purposes... His love endures forever

- Pray to God to not forsake the work He is working in you...

- ◆ **Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**

- What God begins... He will complete

- ◆ **1 Corinthians 1:8-9⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- God is faithful... He will do the work

- ◆ **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.**

- **Your sanctification is dependent on God... He will do it completely...**

- **He who called you is Faithful...**

- **He will surely do it...**

- **Hear me on this:**

- We do not serve a weak God... that is not the God that I preach to you...
- My God is faithful to do all He promises...
- Your god may not be faithful... you may have lost your way...
- Your faith may be in the wrong god... your faith may be in a different god
- Your god may be dependent on your abilities... My God is not...

- **Thank God in Heaven He is not dependent on me...**

- I would never go to bed in peace... ever! I am too fickle

- **2) Who Gets the Promise?**

- **Those who Share the Faith of Abraham**

- **What did Abraham do?**

- ◆ He believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness

- ◆ Abraham believed God could do the unthinkable
- ◆ He believed God could give him a child even though He was too old...
- ◆ He believed God had credited him with righteousness
- ◆ He believed God could raise his son Isaac from the dead
- ◆ He trusted God to do the impossible

▪ **Do you share in the Faith of Abraham?**

- Do you believe that God can raise you from the dead?
- Because His Son Jesus has died to secure your forgiveness and inheritance

▪ **All those who share Abraham's Faith will be guaranteed the promise...**

❖ **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.**

➤ **1) We Have Absolute Assurance... Because of the One Who Promises**

▪ **In the Presence of the God in who he believed....**

▪ **This God is Trust Worthy...**

- Revelation 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new " And He said, "Write, for these words are **faithful** and **true**."
- Psalm 20:6-8 Now I know that the LORD **saves** His **anointed**; He will **answer** him from His holy heaven with the saving **strength** of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will **boast** in the **name** of the LORD, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have **risen** and stood **upright**.
- Isaiah 25:9 And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have **waited** that He might **save** us This is the LORD for whom we have **waited**; Let us **rejoice** and be **glad** in His **salvation**."
- Deuteronomy 32:4 "The **Rock**, his work is **perfect**, for all his ways are **justice**. A God of **faithfulness** and without **iniquity, just** and **upright** is he.
- Psalm 9:10 And **those** who **know** your **name** put their **trust** in you, for you, O Lord, have not **forsaken** those who **seek** you.

➤ **2) Marvel at this: He Gives Life to the Dead and Calls into Existence what does not Exist**

▪ **Here is something of great beauty to behold... consider this verse in context**

- **who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.**
 - ◆ Gives life to the dead
 - ◆ Calls into existence things that do not exist

▪ **Naturally... I think the temptation is just to say Paul is referring to God's power in creation...**

- Or to just remind us that God can resurrect the dead...
- I think Paul is going even deeper than that here...
- He is going beyond marveling over the God who creates from nothing

▪ **Paul is likely pointing us toward how our salvation comes to be....**

- The scriptures say we are dead in our trespasses and sins...
- We are enemies of God... fighting against Him, not His friend
- We want nothing to do with God on our own...
- **Then, He sends the gospel to the soul of the lost person...**
 - ◆ On hearing it, God shines light into the heart of the persons...
 - ◆ He awakens their spiritually dead body...
 - ◆ He calls into existence a living spiritual body...
 - A person who was once dead is now alive
 - A spiritual walk that did not exist now exists...

- **This is the description of the man who is saved...**
 - God creates a Christian where a Christian did not exist...
 - ◆ He gives life to the dead...
 - ◆ All in the power of the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ
- **Does this verse not sum up what Paul is teaching here:**
 - Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved
 - **Do You Notice the Key in this Verse?**
 - ◆ It is Grace... Grace awakens the soul... grace calls into existence a new heart
 - ◆ Grace is what saves us
 - ◆ Praise God this morning in your hearts for God's grace

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

- ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.
- **Do not try another way besides Faith resting on grace...**
 - Oh how important it is to be awakened by the truth of the scriptures...
- **All other ways lead to wrath....**
 - The law brings wrath...
 - Paul is reminding His hearers... if you go through the path of the law... remember what it brings
 - It always brings wrath...
- **The law had its purpose: Making one right with God is not its purpose...**
 - Rather... the law was meant to leave us helpless
 - To leave us knowing we need the grace of God or we will perish
 - Romans 5:20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass,
 - Romans 7:7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."
 - Galatians 3:24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.
 - Romans 7:13b in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.
- **The law only brings wrath... Faith brings Justification**
 - Grace is the source of our Faith and the promises of God...

❖ Response

- **We Are Heirs of God's Kingdom...**
 - The King of the Universe is our King
- **Live Like it: Do something for God**
 - Do something out of the norm for you
 - Do something to make an impact for the gospel
 - Your life will soon be over... And God has promised you a kingdom and a place in it
 - This should give your life boldness and power
- **Rejoice**
 - **Be happy at what God has done through His grace that you received at Faith**
- Be Strong in suffering and sadness...
 - God is your God! You will inherit all things
- Hope fully in God!