

Women's Discipleship
January 20th
Romans 3:21- 4:25
"Salvation"

Paul's presentation of God's righteousness in Christ in 3:21-26 is the introduction and heart of the next section of the letter. This section runs from 3:21 to the end of Chapter 4. It focuses on the way in which God has revealed His righteousness, making it possible for sinners to be justified before Him through faith. "But now" signals the transition from the sobering and depressing portrait of sinful humanity (discussed last month) to the celebration of the salvation now available through Christ. Paul describes for the Romans (and us as well) God's activity of putting people in the right with Himself.

1. What is the critical point Paul makes in 3:21-22 regards how a person whether Jew or Gentile is brought into relation with Himself?
2. Look up the verb "justify" and noun "righteousness" from verses 24 & 25 how are they similar and how are they different?
3. Describe the mode or way God justifies sinners.
4. How is God's grace related to our faith?
5. One of the crowning events in the Jewish calendar was the "Day of Atonement". Read Leviticus 16 and Hebrews 9:1-11 along with Romans 3:24b -26; what does propitiation mean and how is it related to the "mercy seat?" What in effect is Paul saying God has presented Christ as, and His purpose in doing so?

6. Read through Romans 3:27-31 regards justification and the law. Paul devotes all his attention to one key element in the establishment of God's righteousness: the way human beings respond to it. Justification through faith is now the topic Paul will elaborate on. What are 3 implications he draws in verses 27-31?
7. The same things that Paul says briefly and generally in 3:27-31 he says again in more detail with reference to Abraham in chapter 4:1-17. What are 3 parallels he draws in the two passages?
8. Read through a brief chronology of Abraham's experience with the promise of God to give you a clearer understanding of Paul's argument about Abraham in Romans 4.
Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15; Genesis 17, Genesis 21:1-7 and Genesis 22:1-18
9. What is the relationship between Abraham and works, circumcision, the Law, and sight?
Faith vs Works (4:1-8)

Faith vs Circumcision (4:9-12)

Faith vs the Law (4:13-17)

Faith vs Sight (as relates Abraham's experience 4:18-25)

10. How do you think the Jews in Paul's day understood the significance of Abraham? And how does what Paul say about him change that perspective?
11. What problem might Paul create by asserting so strongly that God "justifies the ungodly"(4:5)?
12. How does Paul's argument about the sequence of Abraham's faith and circumcision apply to Jews who had been circumcised as children?
13. If the law brings wrath, why did God give it to his people?
14. What does Abraham's significance as the father of many nations mean for the Christian church today?